

S vs Rebirth 101

Chapter 101 Water Gallon

Meanwhile, Noel kept running and running for days. He didn't drop his guard all this time, thinking the killers could come to him at anytime. After all, he couldn't sense their presence earlier.

So, they could hide their presence now until he dropped his guards before swiftly eliminating him.

'This is annoying. Are they following me or not?' Noel gritted his teeth. 'Am I being paranoid? No, this should be the correct course in my current situation. Instead, dropping my guard down is a foolish action because it gives them the opportunity to kill me.'

Noel ended up staying like this until he reached his destination, Sothbame Village. This village was only a few hours away from the one where the Master Blacksmith resided, so it was a perfect village to do his mission.

As soon as he entered the village, the villagers looked lifeless as if they hadn't drunk anything for days.

They were lying on the ground or leaning on a house with their thin bodies.

"..." Noel looked around for a moment before closing his eyes. He wanted to help them, but his Honor Points weren't enough to buy enough water for them. After all, he couldn't afford to waste his Honor Points like that.

But to his surprise, Ardagan told him otherwise.

When he felt that tingling sensation, he walked to an isolated place and opened his system.

He didn't get the notification, confusing him for a bit. But he soon saw the change in the 'Shop' feature.

Available Points: 6 HP

1 Skill Point (2 HP)

Disinfectant Bandage (1 HP)

Water Bottle (1 HP)

Water Gallon (2 HP)

Torch (1 HP)

'Huh?' Noel sucked a cold breath. 'Now that I think about it, where does Ardagan have all this item? Is he creating them ally? Still, he was curious about the water gallon because it only had a difference of one Honor Point.

In the end, he didn't do anything yet. Instead, he walked to the village chief's house to understand the situation a bit first.

As expected, the village chief also had the same lifeless aura around him. If not for the hope that Noel brought with him, he wouldn't even meet him.

"Village chief, I'm the Apprentice Knight from the Demon Banner Army, ladre."

"O-oh!" The village chief's expression brightened. "Thank you for coming, Sir Knight."

"Well, it seems that I need to do my job as soon as possible, but if you don't mind, can you explain the situation first? I need more information before doing my job."

"Certainly." The village chief nodded furiously, thinking the faster he explained it to him, the quicker he would work. So, he immediately explained, "Our village has been relying on the water from the river nearby.

"But three weeks ago, a group of demons came to the river and created a dam that stopped the water from flowing. We tried to look for the demon, but some of us ended up dying and some who were fortunate enough managed to survive with severe injuries.

"We immediately requested the assistance of the Demon Banner Army who was specialized in handling the demons, so please help us. We managed to hang on our lives by using our water reserve, but it has been used up yesterday. If we continue like this, we'll die soon." The village chief lowered his head, begging Noel to take action immediately.

"Hmm... This is hard." Noel thought for a moment. "I don't know the numbers of the demons and what their level is. And fighting them in the water is a first for me."

"That's..." The village chief's face became pale.

"I need to investigate the situation first before being able to do anything. After all, if I go recklessly, I might end up dying instead of solving your problem. And if I die, the villagers will also die because another person won't be coming." Noel explained.

The village chief bit his lips. He wanted to ask Noel to just go, but his explanation made sense. If Noel went and died, they would die together with him due to the lack of water.

"The most I can do is to stay for one or two days to observe them before trying to kill them." Noel sighed, thinking, 'A demon living under the water, huh... This is the first time I encounter one of them. I don't know what kind of trap I can use against them... Well, my strength should be enough to deal with Low Level Demon, but I don't know if I can fight a Mid Level Demon underwater by myself.'

Noel saw the hopelessness in the village chief's face and said, "Let me think about it first. Who knows there's another option."

"I-I understand." The chief nodded with a sigh, knowing that it was impossible to force Noel do everything they wanted. After all, Noel might end up getting pissed and leaving the village.

Noel walked outside the house and looked at the conditions of the villagers.

Suddenly, a young kid walked to him while carrying a girl who seemed to be connected to him.

"Mister... do you have any water? Can you spare us some water? No, it's just for my sister. Please..." The young kid was begging. Even Noel could see her sister was already too weak to even walk.

p Noel sighed and said, "Don't worry, I'll deal with this problem and soon you can drink. Just wait for a few minutes, understand?"

The young kid didn't know what to do, but Noel had already returned inside the village chief's house as if he was avoiding him.

However, Noel just used that chance to buy the water gallon and summon it, wondering how much water does this one contain.

To his surprise, he found a huge container. The container was a cylinder with the height of half a meter.

"This is..." Noel looked at the water gallon and muttered inwardly, "With this alone, it should be enough to sustain the villagers. And it's the same situation as the dancing children from the fort, whenever I helped them, the progress still continued to rise. So, with this, I could get another progress and by the time I solve their problem, the progress will rise once more. Doesn't this mean I'll get two birds in one stone?"

When he saw this gallon, he smiled and immediately headed to the village chief. He asked energetically, "Village chief! How many people do you have in this village? I think we're not out of options yet!"

Chapter 102 Entitled

"Eh?" The village chief was confused for a second, but he soon saw a huge jar next to Noel. Although he wasn't sure of it, he believed the jar contained water.

"I'm asking how many people are in this town." Noel asked with a serious expression.

"There are... There are a total of 23 families in this place with a total of 61 people." He answered dumbfoundedly.

"61 people, huh..." Noel thought for a moment before buying another Water Gallon from Ardagan and taking it out.

"Huh?!" The village chief was stunned when he saw a jar miraculously appear before his eyes. "This is..."

"I have something on me that can let me do this, but don't ask for more." Noel let out a long sigh while saying, "These two water gallons should be enough to last for a day, right? I'll change my plan. Instead of observing the monster for two days, I'll only do it for a day."

"Please, bear with me for a day. After that, I'll definitely kill the demons. And distribute this water carefully among the villagers so that they won't die from dehydration. Can you do that?"

The village chief sucked a cold breath as his body was shaking. If he was aware of Noel's real identity, he would have knelt already.

"Y-yes. I'll make sure that we don't use the water too much." The village chief nodded furiously, feeling happy that there was hope.

"Alright. You deal with this after I leave the village to scout the demons." Noel took a deep breath to calm his heart as he had another job to do.

"Ah?! After you leave the village? You're not going to distribute it yourself? I'm sure that the villagers will be thankful to you."

Noel shook his head with a smile. "No. It's your job because the people here know and respect you more than me. That's why if it's you, they will be more organized. Besides, if I help you, I'll be occupied for a few hours. The priority here is the river... the water gallons are just emergency relief. That's why I need to work hard to solve the problem."

"You..." The village chief was stunned. If Noel actually helped giving the people this water, they would be extremely grateful to him. And his name would be spread. Yet, the latter didn't seek fame. He just wanted to do his job without getting any recognition.

This was the first time he met such a genuine young man. In his heart, he swore to make sure to tell the tales about what happened in this place.

He would make sure that Noel gained the fame and recognition he would have.

"Alright, it's time for me to go. I'll leave the water here to you." Noel smiled and finally left the village chief's house.

Looking at his back, the village chief muttered his name, "Apprentice Knight ladre..."

The tone was filled with respect and admiration, hoping that the man lived a long life. He was sure that Noel would help more and more people in the future.

Meanwhile, Noel met the two kids again and knelt in one knee, patting the kid's head. "Don't worry, kid. The problem will be over soon. Just make sure you follow the village chief's words."

"En." The kid nodded, not understanding why Noel instructed him to follow the village chief.

However, Noel had already stood up and walked away as he headed to the river. The path itself was quite easy since the villagers seemed to have plowed the soil, making it a simple road for the men and women to gather the water from the river.

Due to their remote location, they couldn't find any water source nearby since the nearest village from them was one day away. And with the current situation, they had no more money to buy the water, let alone bringing it back here.

So, the river was the main water supply of the village. Whether washing clothes or drinking, they used the river for the clean drinking water.

However, the supply was disrupted by the dam, causing a drought in the area. And when they approached the river near the dam, they would be attacked by the demons. They tried to go upstream but the problem was similar. It seemed that there were several demons that roamed inside the water.

Although they didn't know the reason for it, the kingdom seemed to have been investigating it. So, it wasn't his place to butt in.

His only goal here was to kill the demons and destroy the dam.

Noel walked according to the path the village chief gave him and found the dam half an hour later.

'Seriously? It took me so much time just to get to the dam?' Noel widened his eyes in shock, never expecting that the life of the commoner was much severe here.

In the fort, there was a few wells that took care of the water supply, but in this place, they needed an hour just to bring back the water. At the same time, they could only bring one bucket at a time, causing so much time to waste just to get the water.

And with some occasional attacks from the demon fishes, some villagers would die from time to time.

'Once again, I understand that I've been too entitled with my past life. When I was a noble, I didn't need to think about it. The maids and butlers would take care of everything.' Noel sighed and shook his head to regain his focus on the mission. 'I can think this later. For now, I need to focus on finding the monsters.'

Noel turned his head and found the dam they were talking about. The dam was three meters high and spread over ten meters to each side, causing the water to not flow down. The dam was built of boulders. On the downstream side, it'd been lined with logs. Some of them are big and quite heavy. And on the other side, it'd been packed with mud and vegetation.

'This is... to think there's a natural dam like this. If I destroy the dam, won't it cause a major flooding?' Noel sucked a cold breath before his attention was grabbed by something poking out of the water.

Chapter 103 Beaver Demon

There was a head poking out of the water. Noel could only see a small portion of its face and a pair of eyes.

'Hmm?' Noel hurriedly hid behind the tree and tried to observe this demon. However, the demon didn't come out of the water immediately. Instead, it remained underwater for quite some time before it submerged again.

The waiting game continued as he couldn't find the demon for a while after that. In the end, Noel could only remain in that position while taking out a dried jerky since he hadn't have any breakfast yet.

One hour became two. Two hours became four. The demon finally returned to the water. But this time, the demon didn't come from the water, but the ground.

"!!!" Noel widened his eyes in shock. 'It's not a demon living in the water?'

He hurriedly observed the demon carefully while muttering inwardly, 'Hmm, the demon has a large body, the height alone is around one meter but the length is about three meters. The color is black and it has a tail that looks like a paddle. Its body is far bigger than me, so its weight should be a few times than me. Still, there are two huge front teeth... I'm afraid it can rip apart something solid.

'From the looks of it, this demon can be categorized as Mid Level Demon. But the problem is that...' Noel suddenly fell silent because before the demon entered the water, it spotted a small crack on the dam, causing the water to flow a bit.

It immediately moved toward the flowing water and inspected it. After a while, it returned to the surface and approached a tree.

The demon started biting the tree, devouring it from one side.

'Now that I think about it... the small demons are infecting the animals, causing them to become a big demon. So, the original body is that of a normal animal... If I ignore its size as well as color, the living pattern is like...' Noel recounted the information about animals that Shale had taught everyone in the class. '...A beaver.'

Noel finally grasped the demon's real body. However, he was stunned when he heard a cracking sound coming from the distance.

Creak!

Creak!

Suddenly, the tree swayed left and right before the trunk snapped, causing the tree to fall down to the ground.

Bam!

Since the forest was quite wet, there was no dust to be kicked up. However, it was still surprising to see a ten meters high tree fall down. The loud sound startled even him.

But this beaver demon immediately ripped apart one of the branches and started moving to the flowing water, carrying that branch. It then started placing one branch after another before grabbing some mud to hold the water flow. Thanks to the branches, the mud managed to hold the water completely.

'This is...' Noel was impressed by this natural phenomenon. Still, he also found another problem due to this action. 'I see. So, that's how it is. The beaver demon is repairing the dam that fast. I can destroy it with my power, but the beaver will just build another dam whether in this place. It will cause a huge problem to the humans in this area.

'I need to kill this beaver... And because it's living in the land, I don't know how many beaver demons are nearby. If I want to solve this problem completely, I need to kill all the beaver demons.' Noel thought for a moment and realized there was a plan to deal with the beaver. "Ah, I can do that too!"

Noel grinned, believing this was the only plan to solve the problem from the roots.

He continued observing this area until the night had arrived. Before it was too dark for him to go back, Noel finally returned to the village and found them all staying in their own houses.

'It seems that they manage to gain enough energy to restore the basic live in the village. He glanced at the empty gallon and knocked the village chief's door.

"Ah! You've returned." The village chief was surprised to see Noel but hurriedly asked him to come in.

Noel nodded and found the other gallon to be half empty. If it was like this, the water could still last for another half day. It seemed that the village chief had done a splendid job.

"Do you mind if I ask you something?"

"Please."

"Do you know anything about beavers?"

"Beavers?"

"Yes, they're the one causing this problem."

"We do know about beavers, but they're just a small and cute animals. Although they do build dams, but we can handle them easily."

"It seems that the beavers have become a demon. And now the demonified beaver is stronger and faster, creating this type of problem."

"I see... When our people tried to look for the water, they didn't realize it was a beaver."

"The appearance indeed change that much, but the way of living was still the same. So, I have a plan for tomorrow." Noel looked down with a grim expression.

"Is there something wrong?"

"The demons are categorized as Mid Level Demons, so it's going to be dangerous. And it's only like I can destroy the dam easily. At best, I can restore it to the way it's before in two days because I need to kill all the demons to make sure this problem doesn't occur again, but..."

"The water supply huh..." The village chief thought for a moment, troubled.

"Yes. I do have some confidence in killing the demons, but I can't defeat them in one go since you know how the beavers live, right?"

"Indeed. But we have no other water than the one you gave us."

"That's the problem that I want to consult you. I'd like to have two of your bravest men to get the water from the dam. I'll be with them and fend the demons, but I can't guarantee their lives because these demons are stronger than I originally expected." Noel explained.

The village chief didn't know what to say since it was the same as sending two people to their death. But he still looked at Noel and said with a stern tone. "I'll assemble the villagers tomorrow."

Chapter 104 Unity

The next morning, all the villagers had gathered in front of the village chief's house because the chief wanted to talk about something important to them.

They didn't know why, but since the village chief had provided them with emergency water yesterday, they needed to attend this meeting.

Finally, after waiting for like five minutes, the village chief came out with the young man that was supposed to handle the problem.

"Good morning, everyone." The village chief looked at their complexions which had recovered a bit. "This young man is the Apprentice Knight the Demon Banner Army sent to us. He has been observing the dam and providing us with some information that I want to hear.

"First of all, the demons seem to be the beavers. They have infected the beavers in the forest and turned them into demons, but their number is still unknown. Normally, the knight that is sent to this

place will only kill the demons and be done with it, but this young man would like to eliminate everything from the roots, making sure that there are no more beaver demons that can build a dam like that.

"This is what he wants to do and I agree because we have no more money to hire another knight in the future.

"However, this comes with a problem as well. To lure the beaver out, he needs a few days, so in other words, there will be a few days without water." The village chief sighed.

"Village chief, I don't think we can last that long." One of the villagers raised his hand.

"I know." The village chief nodded. "That's why the young man proposes to have two strong and agile men to follow him to the dam. He'll protect you when you gather the water. Still, the demons are so ferocious that even he can't guarantee your lives. Hence, I need two volunteers who can risk their lives. Does anyone want to do it?"

"..."

The silence filled the atmosphere. There wasn't a single person raising their hands. It was to be expected since no one liked to volunteer to die.

They were looking at each other as if asking them to go while they were scared to volunteer themselves. Everyone was hoping that someone would take the role.

Seeing this situation, the village chief let out a long sigh. He was sad and disappointed. Ultimately, he raised his own hand and said, "I'll be fetching the water. I might be old, but my strength should still be enough to carry the water. I need one more person... is there anyone that wants to go together with me?"

"!!!" The villagers widened their eyes as they felt ashamed and surprised at the same time. The village chief had done everything for them, yet, not a single of them was brave enough to go. In the end, he took everything into his own hands, sacrificing himself again for the village.

Suddenly, a kid raised his hand and shouted. It was the same kid as the one that brought his sister to Noel to get some water. "I'll do it. I might be small, but I can carry my sister. My strength should be enough to do it."

"Nico?" The villagers were shocked by his action. Even a little kid was braver than any of them.

Suddenly, a big middle-aged man grabbed Nico's hand and put it down. Meanwhile, he raised his own hand and said, "I'll do it. My daughter died of illness and my wife died because of the demons. I'm now alone, so let me take a part to help the village since no one will be sad if I die."

"I will also do it!" Another man raised his hand, looking at the village chief. "You have sacrificed so much, chief. And it's you who have been handling all the matters in the village, without you, this village will collapse sooner or later. Let me handle this job for you."

"Me too."

"Me too!"

More and more people raised their hands, volunteering to fetch the water.

The village chief finally smiled as he said, "I understand. Thank you for your cooperation. But the young ones can't go. You have a long future ahead of you, so let me choose a pair of an older men."

After this situation, Noel whispered the village chief a few things before he went to the dam to get some work done.

Looking at Noel leaving confused them, but the village chief spoke again. "The young man is trying to kill as many beavers as he can right now to lower the danger. And we also need to handle the dam. That's one of the reason why we can't go this fast. If the entire dam collapses in an instant, there will be a massive flood."

"Fetching water, hunting, or even fishing will be extremely dangerous, so that's why he asks for a few days. He knows that our situation is already dire without water, food, and money. He wants to make sure that we're not troubled by them anymore by solving the problem from the roots.

"And the water I have with me came from him, but he asked me to hide it from you... He just wants to fulfill his job to completion while thinking about us and not receiving the recognition he deserves... I can't say how thankful I am that he is the knight that is sent to this village." The village chief told them the entire truth after Noel left.

The people gasped. They thought that the young man was just a knight who would do whatever he wanted and left after killing one or two demons. But they realized he was the one saving the whole village.

They felt ashamed for thinking like that.

The village chief took a deep breath and said, "Let's distribute the remaining water. And the pair will go to the dam after the sun is on top of our heads. Do you understand?"

"Yes!" The villagers nodded their heads together. Their expressions had changed for the better. Some even clenched his fists, thinking why they didn't do anything earlier.

Chapter 105 Fish

In the meantime, Noel had arrived in front of the dam with a serious expression.

"There are two ways to lure them. If they're underwater, I can simply stand next to the dam. They will surely attack me. But if they're not underwater, I'll break a small portion of the dam so that the flowing water disturbs them. When they're trying to repair it, I'll kill them." Noel thought.

Since he didn't know whether there was a demon underwater or not, Noel stood next to the dam with Ardagan in his hand. He was in high alert, preparing for any kinds of attack coming from the demon.

This was a risky operation, but he needed to check this out because of the villagers. When they fetched the water from this dam, the beaver might attack them too, so he needed to get used to this battle to lower the danger.

Muscle Strengthening.

Spirit Aura Breathing.

Sword Aura.

Noel used all three of them to strengthen his power and increase his speed, waiting for the beaver.

Suddenly, a huge whirlpool appeared before that whirlpool came out like that of a water spout. It rose for a few meters before it turned to Noel's direction.

"!!!" Noel hurriedly jumped to the side, avoiding the water.

As soon as it touched the ground, the water should splash and everything would have ended. But to his surprise, the water turned once again before hitting the ground as if it was alive.

"What?!" Noel widened his eyes, realizing that the water would continue to follow him. "Tsk. What is this demon trying to do? It can even control the water like this. I can't do any underwater fight because my fire won't work in the water and freezing the water just means trapping myself."

Noel looked around, wondering how to pull this demon out of the water. In the end, he tried to retreat to the woods so that the water wasn't enough to follow him.

Unfortunately for him, the water kept coming at him. There was plenty of water in the dam, so the demons could use all of it until it reaches Noel.

But Noel's unluckiness didn't stop there. Another water spout emerged and behaved like a living tornado that chased after Noel.

"There is another one?" Noel widened his eyes in shock. "I need to lure them out of the water or I won't be able to kill them. They can move like a fish in the water after all."

Noel looked around but found nothing that could pull them out of the water.

"Tsk." He clicked his tongue and used Increase Agility Rune and Strength Blessing Rune.

With this speed, Noel wouldn't have any trouble in dodging these two water tornadoes. At the same time, he wonder if there was a log that was big enough to be thrown into the water. But the log shouldn't be too big since his strength wasn't enough to carry that log, let alone throwing it.

"Ah, wait. I think I don't need a log. I have this, right?" Noel smirked and approached the water. The Spiritual Energy had gathered in the tip of his sword as the moment he reached the water, he swung his blade upward, throwing the Spiritual Energy that he gathered into the air.

As soon as the Spiritual Energy was on top of the water tornadoes, it changed shape into a giant sword. This giant sword should be bigger than a log that he could throw with his current strength and due to it being formed by Spiritual Energy, it was stronger.

Noel waved his left hand down as if commanding the sword to fall. "Sword Fall."

The giant sword fell with all the weight. But the tip of the sword was thin and sharp, so there wasn't a splash when it touched the water.

Still, Noel didn't mind because his original intention was to hit the beaver with that sword.

"Die!" Noel shouted, hoping that the sword managed to pierce one of them.

Suddenly, one of the water tornado stopped spinning and the water fell down to the ground, indicating that one of the demons had stopped controlling the water.

"Did I do it?" Noel smirked, knowing this was the chance to handle the other two demons.

As if answering his question, the third water tornado reappeared, causing Noel to be surrounded by three of them.

"Tsk." Noel clicked his tongue. "I missed. I need to find another way to handle this."

Noel thought for a moment and moved toward the bag he put down near the dam. That huge backpack contained the core wood of the Ancient Demon Tree. It was sturdy enough for him to use.

Without hesitation, Noel took out the biggest piece of the wood and used it like a shield.

The Strength Blessing Rune and Muscle Strengthening showed their might. When the water tornado hit them, Noel wasn't pushed back immediately.

He managed to withstand the water force for a few seconds before he could feel the power was too much for him to handle.

"I see. I can protect myself with this for the time being." Noel muttered and started incorporating the shield when he was moving. Dodging also became easier with this shield since he could just break through one of the tornadoes when escaping from them.

"So, what should I do now..." Noel glanced to the dam. "It seems I can only use this tactic."

He ran toward the edge of the dam and cut down a small portion at the top, causing the water to flow through that one gap.

The flow of the water was quite big because the huge amount of water that had been stored within.

"Come out." Noel smirked, expecting the beaver to emerge from the water to stop him from destroying the dam they had worked hard for.

However, what came out next stunned even him. Instead of a beaver, a huge fish with two sharp canines in the front leaped out of the gap and pounced him, trying to rip him apart with those two big fangs.

The fish had a circular shape with a diameter of one meter, causing Noel to freak out.

"It's not a beaver! It's a freaking FISH!"

Chapter 106 Fighting The Fishes

"It's not a beaver! It's a freaking FISH!"

Noel was taken aback because the one he faced was not a beaver, but a fish. He had heard about the report of a fish demon attacking the human from time to time, but he never thought that they would gather in this place.

'Now that I think about it, the fish usually swim downstream. But because of the dam, they can't continue to swim there. In that case, how many fish demons are there?' Noel thought while waving his sword.

Swift Strike.

As expected, the fish demon actually had the might of a Mid Level Demon. And with the addition of its momentum as well as Noel's unpreparedness, the fish overwhelmed Noel with its strength.

"Kh!" Noel gritted his teeth, standing on his ground. Still, he was pushed back for at least ten meters back before the fish had used all his momentum.

When the fish fell to the ground, it started flapping its body due to the lack of water. However, the fish didn't seem to be stopping.

Every time it flapped, the fish was trying to go toward Noel to bite him.

'This is annoying.' Noel clicked his tongue and swung his sword upward.

Sword Fall.

A huge sword appeared on top of the fish, but the moment it fell, the fish had already flapped its body again, avoiding the sword.

"It's still too fast even on the ground. But the fish can't live on the ground, should I wait for a while?" Noel muttered before glancing at the hole, remembering there were two more fishes that attacked him earlier. "No. Let's end this as soon as possible."

"Let's see whether this guy is delicious or not." Noel smirked as the Spiritual Energy started gathering around his sword. Then, the Spiritual Energy sparked, enveloping the sword in fire.

Sword Fire.

This black fire could burn the fish bit by bit every time he attacked, so eventually the fish would be cooked alive. He just hoped that no other fish demon came out of the water to help this one.

Noel waved his sword toward the fish while the latter flapped its tail to repel the fire sword.

Clang!

"Heavy..." Noel frowned, feeling the intense force from the tail. After knowing that the fish wasn't as weak as he expected, Noel changed his approach again.

He saw that the tail reddened after getting scorched by the fire for a while, so Ardagan's flame was effective.

'Although I have expected this, but Ardagan's flame is indeed extraordinary.' Noel thought while leaping forth, approaching the fish again.

The latter flapped its body, kicking it to the air again. After that, it opened its mouth and tried to swallow Noel from above this time.

Noel took a deep breath and calmed his heart down. Instead of working up and jumping to the side out of panic, Noel calmed down and took a few small steps to the left.

This way, he managed to avoid the fish without a single waste movement.

Before the fish flapped its body again to get away, Noel swung his sword and struck the fish's body.

The black flame started scorching its body, but it wouldn't be able to kill the demon easily. So, he applied one more skill from Ardagan.

"Ignition Sword."

The flame around his sword suddenly flared up and caused an explosion.

Boom!

"!!!" Noel covered his eyes with his arm, thinking he would be engulfed by the flame as well. But to his surprise, he didn't feel the heat coming from the sword.

Only the fish suffered from the explosion. Its side was scorched black. A portion of its body even burned to ashes, causing the blood to continuously flow out.

"The power... It's so strong." Noel was taken aback by the strength. He had never used this power before because whenever he used the Black Sword, he needed to use ice along with it since everyone knew that he was an Ice Spirit User.

However, the sword had become white this time and he had another identity. This way, he could freely use his fire.

"Oh, it seems this Spirit Ability is more useful than I thought." Noel smiled satisfied. He saw that the fish was in pain to the point it couldn't use that side of his body to kick his body to the air anymore. Thanks to it, the fish's movement became extremely simple and predictable.

Noel didn't hesitate to approach the fish from the injured side and struck the fish.

Mega Slash.

This time, Noel strike sliced its head a bit, causing the fish to slow down. There was nothing the fish could do to avoid dying at this point.

When he was about to deliver the killing blow, two more fishes came through the gap and jumped to him.

"!!!" Noel immediately stopped his motion and turned around to face these two fishes.

These two fishes seemed to be different from the one he defeated earlier. When these two fishes were flying in the air, they opened their mouth as blue light gradually shone from within.

Suddenly, a water twister came out of their mouth and flew to Noel at a fast speed.

Although he had expected this from a Mid Level Demon, he was still surprised that they used it immediately. From what he knew from hunting Mid Level Demons together with Anna previously, the Mid Level Demon's Spiritual Energy Capacity wasn't that huge. They could only attack him like this less than five times.

With the addition of the usage of Spiritual Energy that they used to attack him at the first meeting, they wouldn't have enough Spiritual Energy to launch another attack like this after they failed to attack him.

Still, the fish truly caught him off guard. Noel couldn't dodge this with his current movement. Hence, he raised his shield again while using his Four Points Circulation to boost his shield so that he had enough thrust to stop the force in the water twister.

Bam!

"Kh." Noel gritted his teeth as his hand became numb just from receiving the impact.

As one would expect from a Mid Level Demon, even though their intelligence was low, they didn't act based on instinct like that of a Low Level Demon. The moment those two fishes managed to stop Noel in his track, the injured fish flew toward Noel and opened its mouth, trying to swallow him.

"I have fought multiple Mid Level Demons before, so I know it will be like this." Noel smirked while swinging his sword upward.

A sword appeared above the fish. The fish was in the air this time, so it was impossible for it to dodge.

"Die."

Sword Fall.

Chapter 107 Pinch

Sword Fall.

The humongous sword pierced through the fish and impaled it to the ground. The fish, who was already dying, died in an instant.

Meanwhile, he needed to handle these two fishes next.

"I have understood their movements, so..." Noel muttered and looked at his white sword that was enveloped by black fire. He then approached one of them from the opposite direction of its friend, causing the other fish to loop around if it wanted to attack Noel.

This way, Noel could fight against this big fish one at a time, giving him a huge advantage.

Swift Strike.

His first attack was a quick and precise attack to the neck. The fish barely avoided it, but a portion of the sword scratched its neck, causing a slight burn in that area.

Due to it avoiding Noel's attack, it exposed the other fish that was about to loop around.

Taking advantage of the momentum, Noel approached the fish from the opposite direction, striking him from the back.

Ignition Sword.

The fish tried to avoid him, but Noel managed to strike its tail and caused another explosion, obliterating the tail in one go.

"Heh." Noel smiled, knowing that this fight would be easier since he had understood the fish's movement.

With this kind of injury, the fishes wouldn't be able to harm him even if they worked together.

"Still..." Noel muttered before he felt another presence coming from the water.

This demon didn't jump straight in. Instead, it was climbing the dam and looking down on the field, finding Noel and the three fishes.

Its bloodshot eyes were directed at Noel as if thinking him as an enemy that should be eliminated. It was clear that the demon was angry due to Noel breaking down its dam.

"..." Noel maintained his silence. He wondered what this demon planned to do. Although he had prepared some traps, he didn't know which one was effective against him.

Since the beaver demon hadn't attacked him yet, Noel went straight to the fish that had no tail. This was the demon that he could kill the fastest after all.

"Die..." Noel muttered in a low voice as he struck the fish with another Ignition Sword.

Unfortunately for him, another demon came out of the forest when he was about to strike the fish.

"!!!" Noel felt the killing intent that saw him as a prey. He hurriedly turned around and saw a beaver pouncing him. "Kh."

,m Noel didn't have enough time to use Ignition Sword. In the end, he only managed to block the beaver's teeth.

Seeing this sword, the beaver didn't hesitate to bite it, trying to destroy the sword like it was chopping down the tree.

However, the moment it bit Ardagan, the beaver demon was stunned for a second. The demon was startled to be unable to destroy this sword.

'It's not a family heirloom for nothing.' Noel smirked and released the Sword Fire to burn the beaver's mouth.

As soon as it felt the intense heat emanating from the sword, the beaver hurriedly let it go while jumping back a few times. It also opened its mouth due to the heat.

"Still, this is not a really good situation." Noel muttered in a low voice. There were four Mid Level Demons around him. Although his strength was enough to handle them, he needed to deploy some traps if he wanted to escape unscathed from this battle.

At the same time, the fish demons would surely return to the water when he ran to his traps. Letting them go back would mean the water became more dangerous than it needed to be.

Hence, leaving this place wasn't an option.

"I really need to kill these demons here." Noel had decided that it was a better choice to end everything in this place. He just needed to find a way to eliminate the fishes first before running to his traps.

Noel hurriedly chased after the fish without tail again, trying to eliminate it as soon as possible.

"It's not the time to hold back anymore." Noel's expression became serious as the beaver demon tried to stop him from harming the fish.

However, ice suddenly appeared on the ground. As expected of the beaver demon, it impaled the ice with its claws, preventing its body to slip on that ice. However, the ice had done its job since all he wanted was to stop the demon.

He took this opportunity to reach the fish and struck him one more time.

Ignition Sword.

Now that the fish didn't have a tail, the sword struck right at the back of its body.

"Point blank range." Noel smirked as the sword exploded again, obliterating half of the body.

The fish had some last struggle, but its body gradually became weak and the fish ultimately died from that wound.

Knowing that he was dangerous, the beaver demon that had been standing on top of the dam this whole time finally made its appearance.

It leaped into the air and attacked Noel from above.

Noel smirked and waved his sword, planning to explode the beaver's hand.

Ignition Sword.

The flame burst out, but to his surprise, the explosion never happened. When he took another look, he saw water coming out of the beaver's claws, suppressing his fire.

Meanwhile, the second beaver came to him from the opposite direction.

Noel raised his shield and blocked its claws, but he suddenly noticed something wrong.

'Wait a minute. Where is the other fish?' Noel thought before he felt another presence coming from behind.

"Tsk." Noel clicked his tongue and tried to spin his body, but it was too late. The fish was already right before him and bit his left arm.

Noel used his Ice Control to create an ice that could withstand the teeth, but those canines were sharper and sturdier than he thought.

The ice was crushed in an instant as the teeth finally made its way toward Noel's arm.

The two beavers had already retreated, allowing the fish to devour Noel.

"Aaaahhhhh!" Noel screamed in pain as the demon's teeth impaled his arm. He used all his strength to withstand the pain while thrusting his sword to the fish.

Mega Slash.

The demon that he struck was sliced easily by his Mega Slash, but the force was still too strong. Mega Slash also pushed back the demon a bit, causing the teeth that stuck on his arm to start ripping his flesh apart.

"Aaahhhhh!" The pain was beyond his expectation. He often pierced a demon and started slicing them from that hole. It was effective and he could understand it now how painful it was.

Chapter 108 Defeating The Demons

"Aaaaahhhh!" Noel gritted but he soon realized that the fish had died since there was no more force coming from the teeth.

Without hesitation, he pulled out all the teeth by pushing off the mouth. However, the two beavers didn't let this opportunity go.

While Noel was pushing the fish away, the beavers approached him again, trying to kill him.

Annoyed, Noel shot out the Spiritual Energy upward, creating a humongous sword above them.

The two beavers leaped in the opposite direction, looping around to attack Noel from both sides.

But Noel managed to free himself from the fish within that time. Although he couldn't move his left hand for the time being, he should be able to kill the two beavers.

"I don't need a shield anymore," said Noel as he leaped to one of the beavers.

The beaver in the front waved its claws to attack him while the one behind him opened its mouth, trying to snap his head with its strong teeth.

Noel struck the beaver's claws, but the latter seemed to be smarter than he thought because the beaver somehow pushed the claws downwards, preventing Noel from swinging his sword again to handle the one coming from behind. At the same time, the beaver in the front opened its mouth, planning to do the same thing.

The calm expression in Noel's face was unchanged as if this situation was still within his means.

Noel finally showed the swordsmanship he had been learning from Ardagan.

With that downwards swing, Noel was supposed to stop that swing before it passed his legs, but he continued that swing until his hand reached his back. It was at this time he let go of the handle with a small force, causing the sword to be thrown upward at a slow speed.

Then, Noel's right hand rotated in the opposite direction and caught the floating sword behind his shoulder.

"!!!" The beavers were startled that the previous Noel who was supposed to be an easy target became the hunter. Their momentum didn't allow them to change their directions, and the best thing they could do was to lean their bodies to the side to avoid getting slashed in one hit.

In that instant, Noel made another full swing that cut both beavers in rapid succession. Unfortunately for him, Noel only managed to cut a part of their bodies and one arm. Their heads still remained.

Although the blood loss would be enough to kill them, the demons should still be able to move around for a while. If he dropped his guard right now, he would be the prey of these demons. At the same time, there was no need for traps when it had reached this point.

Noel didn't hesitate to leap to the beaver in the front that was trying to escape from him. He summoned another giant sword and dropped it in front of the beaver. The panicked beaver was startled and tried to loop around, but Noel took this opportunity to catch up and slice the beaver's head with Mega Slash.

Without wasting his time, Noel turned around and chased after the second beaver that was running away from him. Noel's Increase Agility Rune and Four Points Circulation finally showed their might, boosting his speed significantly.

Noel caught up to the beaver in just a second as he struck the beaver's back with Ignition Sword, destroying a part of the body. With the injury it suffered earlier, the beaver died a few seconds later.

On the other hand, Noel fell on his butts, tired. His body was also covered with pain.

Glancing at the injured shoulder, Noel bought a bandage from Ardagan, planning to cover his wound first. He was planning to go to Astar Town first before visiting the Master Blacksmith, so he could heal this wound in that town. It wouldn't take too long anyway, so he immediately grabbed that bandage.

Before he could put on the bandage, he heard a man's voice coming from behind.

"Sir Knight?"

"!!!" Noel hurriedly turned around, alarmed by their presence. However, he soon lowered his guard when he confirmed that they were the villagers that brought the two empty gallons to fetch the water. "Oh, you've come."

"You're injured..."

They approached him with worried faces. The two people that had been chosen was the man who was the first to raise his hand and a farmer.

"You should be careful. That dam is flowing right now, so there's a chance that a demon will come out suddenly." Noel warned them while glancing at the corpses in the area.

They nodded with a serious expression. They could imagine what kind of battle Noel had faced earlier. In fact, they had been watching him since a few minutes ago. They didn't dare to come out because they thought they would just be the burden if the demons targeted them.

Instead of increasing his burden, they chose to be an observer.

Once again, they realized how Noel risked his life to fight against the demons to save their villages. If Noel didn't care about the village, he would just kill one or two demons before calling it complete.

So, they felt grateful for Noel to do all this without being asked.

"That... can I see your wounds? Although I can't do much, I can wrap the bandage. I often helped the village hunter whenever he returned with injuries." The farmer raised his hand, asking.

"Is that so? I'll let you do it then." Noel nodded before standing up. "Can you dress my wound while I'm standing? I need to make sure there's no demon coming out of that gap."

"That shouldn't be a problem." The man agreed without hesitation.

Although he wanted to hide inside the forest for the time being, it would be troublesome if the demon came out and somehow let loose without anyone knowing.

So, standing here was the most optimal option.

The man immediately grabbed the bandage and prepared to wrap Noel's wounds.

Meanwhile, Noel pointed at the dam and said, "We're going to let the water to flow like this for a while. Not only will the beaver come out to fix the dam, but we can also destroy the dam without causing a flood or any damage."

"We understand. If you need anything, please instruct us. We'll definitely help you." The two men were in awe of Noel's dedication and decided to help him no matter how weird the request was.

Chapter 109 Bond

After his wounds were wrapped neatly, Noel then stated, "We can use that gap to get some water. Although both of you need to hold the gallons so that they won't be thrown away by the water velocity, you can hide behind the dam itself to avoid the demon's sight. Meanwhile, I'll stand in front of the gap so that they will see me first.

"This way, they won't be too focused on you. What do you think?" Noel asked. The fact that he was asking their opinions just showed that Noel wasn't a dictator. He also wanted them to participate in saving the villages.

Both of them exchanged looks before nodding to Noel. "We'll do it according to your instruction."

"Good. Also, if you want to, you can bring back the corpses here. Although they've become a demon, their corpse still can be eaten. I'll just remove their crystals and you're good to go.

"I know that the villages have a hard time surviving, so this might be the time for you to make a little party to cheer everyone's up. Just take away the burned parts and you're good to go. With their size, it should be able to easily feed the people, right?"

"This..." They were surprised. It seemed they had underestimated Noel's magnanimosity. Noel was not only a savior, but a hero. He truly thought everything for them and wanted to help them to the best of his ability.

"How can we thank you..." The farmer lowered his head. He wanted to cry from his kindness. The hardship they had endured in the past few weeks were truly too much. Some had even died due to the lack of water. So, he was thankful that the one liberating their village was Noel.

"Just do your job immediately. It's been too hard for you, so you should hurry." Noel smiled. "Anyway, I promise that the problem will be solved within two to three days."

"Y-yes." They nodded with a serious expression as they immediately worked according to Noel's instruction.

While hiding themselves behind the dam, they held the gallon below the flowing water.

The gallon was filled to the brim in just a few seconds, so the job itself wasn't as dangerous as it seemed.

At the same time, Noel had just eliminated all the demons nearby, so there wasn't a single demon coming out of the dam for the time being.

Ultimately, the two guys returned to the village with a smile on their faces. After that, they brought two more people to cut the fishes and beavers so that they could eat them.

In the meantime, Noel kept standing in front of the dam, waiting for a demon to appear.

After several hours, another beaver demon emerged from the water, trying to fix the dam. Noel gained its attention easily and the beaver immediately chased after the injured him.

Because he was injured, Noel was relying on his traps. The trap was just some simple spikes or ropes to trip them. There wasn't a need for more complicated traps for the time being because Noel's strength was already between Mid Level Demon and Advanced Level Demon.

Another few hours of peace was gained after the beaver's appearance before Noel could hear the falling tree from a distance. He immediately checked the area and eliminated another beaver demon.

It was a smooth progress because Noel could see the water going down slightly.

Since the flow rate decreased a bit, Noel cut down another portion of the dam, increasing the flow rate. He also needed to make sure he didn't cut too much to the point the dam would crumble since it would be catastrophic.

Eventually, the night fell and Noel retreated back to the woods next to the dam, watching the gap while biting his dried jerky.

'Still, to think that I'd gotten used to the meal that Anna made...' Noel thought while clicking his tongue. 'I feel like eating dried jerkies for days are a torture itself. That must be Anna's plot... She must be trying to conquer my stomach to the point I can't live without her. Screw her.'

Noel kept eating even though he was annoyed.

Suddenly, he felt a movement coming from the village's direction.

"Hmm?" Noel hurriedly raised his sword, trying to see what kind of demon was approaching him.

But he soon saw light among the woods. It was clear that the light came from the torch, meaning a villager was visiting him.

"Who are you?" Noel's voice resounded in the area, giving away his location. As if responding to the sound, he soon found the farmer among the woods. "Why do you come here?"

The farmer also spotted Noel and immediately came to him. "I finally found you."

"What's wrong? Is there something happening to the village?" Noel frowned, feeling something ominous.

However, the farmer brushed that feeling away with a smile on his face. He placed down the bag he carried earlier and opened it. "No, no. I'm here to bring you this."

"This is..." Noel widened his eyes when he took a glimpse of the bag.

It was food, a piping hot one as the steam was still coming out.

"You told us to use them to cheer us, but you're the one fighting for us... We can't really allow you to suffer like this when we're happy." The farmer smiled. "This food should be able to keep you warm right now."

"O-oh?" Noel didn't expect that someone would risk his life in this darkness just to bring him food. He couldn't help but smile. "Thank you."

"No, no. We should be the one thanking you." The farmer scratched the back of his head, feeling embarrassed to receive Noel's thanks. "Actually, if you're going to remain here during the night, the guy, who came during the day, wants to take your position in watching the dam. He wants to help you watching over the dam during the night. He'll alarm you when he spots a demon. This way, you can take some rest since you're injured..."

Noel truly felt gratified by how they repaid the kindness. He didn't expect them to repay it, but it was truly amazing to see people's bonds like this.

"No, no. There's no need for you to worry about that. I can easily go through two to three days without sleep. After that, just let me rest for a bit before I leave the village after the mission completion." Noel politely denied their offer since it was too dangerous.

"I understand. But please... Let us bring you food later so that you won't be in empty stomach." The farmer looked at him with a serious face.

After rejecting the previous request, Noel felt bad for declining this one too, so he nodded his head. "Alright. But you need to be careful."

"Yes. Thank you, Sir Knight."

Chapter 110 Danger

Noel never thought that the farmer that approached him and showed his kindness would get into an accident today.

"Not good, old man." Noel shouted as he watched the beaver demon biting the farmer's shoulder.

The blood splattered and the scream resounded in the area.

"Aaaaaahhhhh!" The farmer let out tears as his face turned pale in an instant. The pain was far more extraordinary than what he had endured so far as a farmer.

Noel couldn't understand how did this happen. He could only look at the beaver demon trying to swallow the farmer.

"How did this happen..." Noel gritted his teeth.

...

A few moments ago.

The night passed safely. Although Noel found a fish demon once during the night, he eliminated it without much trouble.

However, the challenge came during the second day. Since there was already a large amount of water that had been flowing out of the dam, Noel cut a big part of the dam, causing the water to flow at a higher rate.

This caused the beaver demons to be extremely angry.

When the two guys were trying to gather the water from the dam while hiding behind it, the beaver suddenly came out of the water, but didn't jump straight to Noel. Instead, it climbed on top of the dam to look the dam's condition.

It was at this time the beaver demon found the two guys that hid underneath the dam.

Shaaa! The beaver demon let out a cry, angry at these two people.

"!!!" Noel was startled for a second and immediately jumped to the beaver demon. "What do you think you're doing?"

He waved his sword to the beaver's neck, but the latter avoided it easily by jumping to the ground.

Noel tried to chase it but he soon heard the water splashed behind him. When he turned around, he saw another beaver demon coming out of the water.

"Eh?" The farmer widened his eyes and felt this overwhelming presence behind him. He thought that the beaver demon that came out first was the only enemy, but it turned out there were more hiding underwater.

The beaver demon's bloodshot eyes were staring straight at him, wanting to kill him. It opened its large jaws as if trying to swallow him alive.

"Dodge it!" Noel shouted in panic as he immediately returned to these two.

However, it was too late, the beaver demon had already bitten the farmer's shoulder.

"Aaaaahhhh!" The farmer immediately dropped to the ground while the other guy was panicking, but not knowing what to do.

Sword Fall.

Noel launched the Spiritual Energy into the air so that the giant sword would appear on top of the beaver before him.

Feeling the extraordinary pressure from above, the beaver demon immediately opened its mouth again and leaped back, avoiding the sword.

Noel had finally arrived but couldn't afford to look at the farmer's injury because they were still in a predicament.

Noel immediately handed over the leftover bandage and said, "Take it."

The two beavers were surrounding them from two sides. He had once protected people from a few Low Level Demons and he managed to do it completely. Still, two Mid Level Demons were far greater threat than seven Low Level Demons, so Noel didn't know whether he could protect them or not.

"We're going to breakthrough. I know that you're in pain, but you need to get up right now!" Noel shouted before finding the left beaver demon running straight at him.

He waved his slash with enough Spiritual Energy in his sword to crush the demon's skull.

Mega Slash.

The beaver felt the danger of this attack and stopped abruptly, barely avoiding the slash. After that, it waved its claws, trying to push away the sword while its teeth went straight to Noel's head.

If this was the usual Noel, he would use his Sword Aura as well as Four Points Circulation to overpower this demon, but he needed to protect these two.

As expected, the other beaver demon took this opportunity to go to the people Noel protected as if it knew they were Noel's burden.

Noel clicked his tongue and jumped back even with the beaver chasing after him.

Suddenly, Noel waved his sword downwards to smash the beaver's head but seeing Noel didn't use his Mega Slash to attack him, the beaver used its sharp claws to stop the sword.

Little did he know, Noel's foot was already right at its stomach.

Four Points Circulation.

A shock wave erupted from his foot as he blew away such a huge beaver with a single kick. Although it wouldn't cause enough damage to the beaver, it was still enough to buy some time for him to reach the other beaver.

Sword Fall.

Noel released another huge sword not in front of the beaver, but in front of the two men. The huge sword body were enough to act as a shield from the beaver.

And the time that the beaver took to loop around the sword was enough for Noel to catch up with the help of his Increase Agility Rune.

Mega Slash.

The beaver didn't expect Noel to return so fast, considering its friend had been occupying him. He barely reacted to that slash and stopped it with the claws, but the power in Mega Slash was beyond its expectation.

Some claws were cut while some bent in a weird way. The pain in its hands were extraordinary as the beaver let out a screech.

"Shut up!" Noel shouted and swiftly struck the beaver.

Swift Strike.

Ignition Sword.

Noel used two Spirit Abilities in rapid succession to slash the beaver demon. Today might be his lucky day because his Ignition Sword managed to strike at the beaver's head, blowing up half of the head. With such a wound, the beaver died in an instant.

Noel wanted to focus on the other beaver, but he was afraid that another beaver would come out right now, so he turned to the two guys and shouted, "Hurry up and leave!"