

Warlord 31

Chapter 31 Mutation

He took a last glance towards the left, making certain that there were no monsters before he rushed towards the right.

As most doors were closed, Dilan simply ignored them for now.

With fast strides he passed through the hallway and kept his sight focused on a group of five zombies.

Their looks were similar to ordinary zombies, with only a slight difference.

All of them had a bluish color around the area of their feet.

This was something one wouldn't usually notice, but Dilan had figured it out.

He had an idea about what could be the reason behind this as well.

That was also why he was not astonished when the five zombies shot towards them with a speed twice that of ordinary zombies.

Oliver was baffled for a moment, but instead of moving backward, he pushed ahead while leaning forward.

Dilan used his high speed to pierce the Reinforced Stone spear out.

His prediction of the zombie's trajectory was accurate as the closest zombie ran straight at his spear.

Piercing through its head, Dilan's powerful thrust killed the zombie at once..

With a quick motion and his enhanced strength he pulled back the Spear just to slash out horizontally, using the small corridor's restricted width to his advantage.

The attack didn't kill a single zombie, but it distracted them as they momentarily forgot about Oliver.

However, this was a big mistake as the skinny young man had already appeared next to the zombie that was on the far left.

He had ducked under Dilan's slash, using every single detail of the surroundings to his advantage as he pushed upward using his ability.

[Violent Strike]!

One unit of mana was used up, and it increased Oliver's strength which allowed him to pierce the rat horn dagger through the zombie's chin, driving the tip of the blade deep inside before it pierced into the zombie's head.

Not having the time to be certain that the zombie was dead, Oliver had to let go of his weapon as the zombie next to him lunged at him.

Fortunately, Dilan was already prepared to attack once again.

He appeared right in between Oliver and the zombie without hesitation and blocked off the zombie's path.

But the monster wasn't picky about whose brain it feasted on.

Thus, its hands reached out for Dilan, brushing past his clothes in an attempt to kill him.

The attack barely missed Dilan, and when Oliver saw this, his eyes widened in shock as he realized what kind of dangers Dilan had thrown himself in just to protect him.

However, Dilan's sky blue eyes showed no signs of worry, and his ice-cold gaze hardened as he pierced the Reinforced Stone Spear.

Due to the narrow space between Oliver and the zombie, Dilan had to thrust his spear right into the zombie's chest pushing the monster back before he kicked it hard.

Afterward, he advanced towards the staggering beast and in a clean cut chopped off its head, before jumping in the fray of the other two agility-enhanced zombies.

Their speed might be twice that of ordinary zombies, but that was still not fast enough to face Dilan.

His combat experience was slowly increasing with time and each subsequent kill, and his movements were much smoother as well.

He made far fewer unnecessary steps and actions in the combat style he was slowly creating and adapting himself to.

Thus, he lashed out towards the zombie on his right.

Due to its high speed, Dilan was not able to pierce its head in time.

However, that was fine because he had aimed for its left shoulder, to begin with.

Pinning the zombie on the right to the wall, Dilan used his strength that was now thrice that of an average human before the Primordial Ascension and lifted his left leg up to the height of his abdomen before hurling the zombie away like dead meat.

His shoe connected with the head of the zombie on the left, and the impact caused its neck to break.

It was only a fraction of a second later that Oliver shot past Dilan, piercing his remaining dagger in the head of the left zombie, before he reached out for the other zombie as well, ending its life.

Dilan would have to retract the Reinforced Stone Spear before piercing out in order to kill the zombie he had just pinned down.

Thus, Oliver had believed that it would be for the best to help out a little bit.

It was not necessary but Dilan nodded his head to thank Oliver before he did a cursory check and signaled to Dilan that the coast was clear for them to proceed further to the hallway.

There were no monsters in their immediate surroundings, and they could only hear the growling of zombies from a few rooms, but that could be easily ignored.

Turning to the corpses, Dilan thought about something which led him to act rather fast as he opened the skull of the two Zombies he killed.

[Essence of a Tierless Level 3 Agile Zombie has been absorbed → +0.5 Agility]

“As expected.” He could only mumble as the first Essence crystal crumbled in his hand.

The zombies they had just killed were likely to be advanced mutations of ordinary zombies, which told them why their agility had improved to such heights.

This also explained why their speed was so high and made it clear that all the bodies accepted three to four Essence crystals of all types of monsters post which wouldn't provide any status points further.

As such, he absorbed the last crystal as well, gaining 0.3 points in Agility before Dilan continued his way through the hallway.

“If all corridors are connected, there should only be a few rats on the right side. How about we use this chance to clear the rooms first before killing the stronger zombies.

We should imprison the weaker zombies, one in each room. This would make it easier for us to procure abilities when we have more survivors.”

No sooner had he shared this idea, the numerous closed doors came into his view.

Oliver wasn't really paying enough attention and his eyes widened when he received a total of 1.1 Agility from the three Essence crystals.

This boosted his Agility above 3 Units, which was higher than Dilan's Agility of 2.9 Units.

Only when Dilan repeated his idea did Oliver listen to him, just to nod his head.

‘Why am I even asking for your opinion if you just nod to whatever I say?’ Dilan began to question himself, shaking his head lightly.

Having agreed on the decision, they began to clear all the rooms one after another. Luckily, in some rooms they could only find a single zombie.

Thus, Dilan closed such rooms once again, engraving a big ‘I’ on the center of the door.

A total of four hours passed, and they encountered more than a hundred zombies on their way through the hallway that connected the left and front corridor.

They didn't encounter a single evolved zombie, let alone a special zombie.

All around them, they could only find unleveld and level 1 zombies.

However, this time, they didn't kill them.

Either they led one zombie in an empty room before Dilan cut off its leg, or they simply avoided larger groups, slowly splitting them up before filling the empty rooms with one zombie each.

This took up most of their time and required their utmost focus as well.

As such, the two didn't even notice that they hadn't encountered a single horned rat or Krendel on their way.

Stretching their body after they were done, Oliver felt like falling asleep right on the spot he was standing on.

Meanwhile, Dilan returned to the front where they had yet to clear the rooms after the nurses' room.

"The nurses should take medics from the nurses' room to the cafeteria sooner or later," Dilan suddenly mumbled.

There were quite a few things he had to pay attention to in order to ensure everyone's survival.

However, it was just as he was about to clear the remaining rooms of the second floor that he halted in his tracks.

'Am I not being too much of a thinker and a strategist right now? Someone else should think about sorting all this mess. Just let me fight!!'

Chapter 32 Frustration

Dilan decided that he shouldn't shoulder all the responsibility and be the savior of everybody around him and that everything should return to the usual just like it was before.

He was excited to fight, but instead of ordering others around about what they should do, and being a chief battle strategist to avoid casualties, ration food, and just about do everything a thoughtful leader of a group would do, Dilan now focused on himself!

'The first two attempts to use mana in my attacks were quite decent. I should focus on that to become stronger, while the others can play leader, or whatever!'

Shrugging his shoulders, he cleared the last few rooms of zombies before taking a last glance at the left side of the T-shaped corridor.

He couldn't see any horned rats or Krendels, but it was only a matter of time before they would flood the corridor.

Afterward, Dilan turned around to go back to the cafeteria.

While passing the hall on the second floor, Dilan heard a loud banging from the left corridor.

This made him freeze on the spot as he tried to listen to the noises carefully.

'Not even the Gluttonous zombie would survive there, and neither the Krendels nor horned rats can issue such noises!'

Excitement spread through his body as he looked at the few dents on the door just to keep walking.

He and Oliver returned to the cafeteria, where they were greeted with smiles.

Some Survivors expected them to bring a few Essence crystals, but only Sarah dared to approach Dilan while the others just watched them curiously.

“Dilan, do you have some Essence crystals for me?”

Because he nodded his head when she requested Essence crystals, it was a given that she would receive, at least, a few crystals of a lower level. Hence, the others grew hopeful that they would receive something too.

However, Dilan just shook his head before he put down the empty backpack..

Cleaning the Reinforced Stone Spear afterward, he placed it aside and started rolling his sleeves down to get ready for a bath.

A frown appeared on his face when he looked at his blood-splattered and dirt-smearred clothes.

If his clothes could be labeled as dirty even before he entered the hospital, they were nothing more than items worth discarding in a trash bin.

There were two huge holes in his shirt; one from being punctured by a tree trunk, and one owing to the nurse tearing open his shirt to take the bullet out of him.

As such, he sighed deeply, ignoring Sarah’s disappointed expressions before he asked,

“None of you have spare clothes, right?”

Dilan didn’t expect a miracle to happen and suddenly be offered clean clothes, which was why he accepted the fact that nobody gave him a useful answer.

But even then, he couldn’t help but feel a little bit annoyed by the attitude of some Survivors.

The three new nurses had red cheeks, and their expressions looked like they had been in a verbal fight with some other Survivors.

Meanwhile, a handful of the Survivors that resided in the cafeteria since day one looked at him in visible disappointment.

He didn’t bring them more Essence crystals. As such, they couldn’t grow stronger.

Seeing everyone around him, he could only ridicule himself for his generosity to help the other Survivors receive a fair chance at becoming stronger.

To him, it felt as if the last few hours of arduous work from both Oliver and him had been wasted. Even Oliver couldn’t help but look at the few Survivors that did the least to help their entire group to have it easier to live in the new era that arrived on Milarn

Even though it had not been long since everybody ensured that they would work hard to ensure that they were useful to the group, there were some Survivors, who went against their words.

“Why am I even trying so hard?” Dilan suddenly grumbled, taking a short glance at the doors before he shook his head once.

At this moment, a whiff of an aromatic smell permeated the air around Dilan, which was followed by his stomach which began to grumble.

He turned to the kitchen and entered it, and saw that Bianne was working hard to cook a delicious meal for everyone.

Thus, he smiled lightly before saying,

“At least, I can fill my stomach with some nice, hot food, thanks.”

Bianne had not expected Dilan to open the sliding door, just to mumble something in addition to a ‘thanks’.

Afterward, he looked at the food, which caused her to mumble nervously,

“I need..a few more minutes. Please be patient..”

Bianne was still nervous, fearing that Dilan would take revenge on her.

After all, she was the one to have shot him on their first encounter.

Now she knew that it had been a wrong decision, but Bianne was also aware that she had been too frightened.

There was not really an excuse she could come up with to justify her action, and she didn’t want that either.

However, Bianne never found the right timing to apologize to him.

And just when she thought that it was possible to avoid an awkward situation, Dilan disappeared after he nodded his head at her.

Her eyes were fixated on the sliding door that closed behind him as he stepped out, her mouth slightly open as she had just gathered the courage to say something.

Sighing deeply, she could only feel little bit frustrated.

But Bianne’s frustration was insignificant when compared to Dilan’s frustration that everyone in the cafeteria could sense.

If one was able to use their head, just a little bit, one could easily figure out that Dilan’s earlier exclamation of ‘Why am I even trying so hard?’ had nothing to do with him trying hard to fight monsters.

Fighting and killing monsters was evidently something Dilan had taken a liking to, even more so if his opponents were stronger.

By adding the words ‘At least’ to his sentence in which he thanked Bianne for the food, it was not hard to tell what was on Dilan’s mind.

The door had been open and his voice had been clear enough for the others to hear outside the kitchen.

Ever since he had arrived in the hospital, Dilan had been treated like a pushover, was shot at and none of the survivors had thanked him for what he did to allow all of them to gain strength.

This was not even something Dilan wanted, and he would simply ignore their words of gratitude.

However, given the fact that they cleared the front corridor up to the nurses' room several hours ago, it was ridiculous to think that nobody thought of taking the extra set of clothes of the patients that resided in the rooms before.

At the very least, one could have thought about moving the mattresses from the second floor to the cafeteria as well.

To Dilan, the majority of Survivors felt like freeloaders that were not even willing to actually fight.

But even then, they would look up to him for an ability crystal, and some of them had procured it, just to waste it on themselves, without making use of it.

This just meant they wasted precious resources due to their selfishness.

One could also see it as an instinctive action of someone truly frightened.

However, Dilan didn't really care. He just felt like he should act exactly like the other Survivors, mind his own business.

He was going out and risking his life every single time to kill zombies and they would just throw him disappointed looks if he didn't get any Essence crystals for them.

The way some of them were waiting to be spoon-fed everything was starting to get on his nerves.

From now on, only those who were willing to be of use would matter to him, and the others could even die, Dilan wouldn't bat an eyelid if something were to happen to them!

With that in mind, he postponed taking a bath because it would be entirely useless to begin with.

Dilan didn't speak a single word during dinner and quickly left when he was done eating.

Returning to the same old corner, he closed his eyes and decided to take some much-needed rest.

His body required sleep even though his mind cursed out the lazy and entitled Survivors who expected the world from the few hard-working ones while giving them nothing but disappointed looks in return.

Meanwhile, his sulky mood didn't go unnoticed by a few eyes that had been trained on him.

"Does he always have such an attitude?" The youngest nurse asked while looking at the now resting Dilan with a scorn.

Earlier, she had found him quite charming despite the fact that his clothes were worn off, and his face dirty.

However, right now, she felt that he was not even acting like a human.

"How disappointing!"

The moment these two words left her mouth, almost everyone stared at her with daggers in their eyes, while Oliver even got up from the ground, and spoke to her scathingly.

"If you want to leave, feel free to go! We would be better off without giving you food...one less stomach to feed, you know? So, at the bare minimum, shut up, will you?!"

His voice was low, but everyone around them could clearly hear every single word he uttered in contempt.

If not for Dilan, half of the crowd would have either gone insane or dead by now.

But that was something quite a few of them had yet to digest and realize.

Most of them were far away from reality, hoping that this was a nightmare that they would wake up from and everything would be alright in the world again.

Too many things had happened during the last few days, and it was already a wonder for them to be alive.

When Dilan had been injured, most of them understood that they were also required to do something to survive.

Even if they were not able to fight due to various reasons such as their fear, or the incapability to react in time and to move quickly, there had been more than enough other things to do.

Yet, instead of working hard for several hours, some did a few shallow tasks for half an hour before deciding that it had been enough.

And that was not all as they demanded something for their menial work.

Not just Dilan but even Oliver was getting fed up by now, only for the young nurse to fuel his anger even more.

“S-sorry....”

Chapter 33 Backing up!

Dilan didn't notice the drama he had been missing out on as he entered a much deeper slumber than he had wanted to.

Oliver was already enraged by the entitled behavior of some Survivors. However, the youngest nurse was downright rude and ungrateful in his opinion.

He was furious and had every right to do so. They had endangered their life in order to defeat the Gluttonous zombie, and kill numerous other zombies.

In the end, they even accepted that the three nurses could join their group of Survivors, even though nobody knew whether they were trustworthy enough to be allowed in their group or not!

Strangers could always be like Jack, or possibly even worse. The chances to encounter insane Survivors in the Rian mountainside hospital were not little, after all!

Nonetheless, with Dilan's help, everything had been fine, and he had taken responsibility by allowing the nurses to join them.

As such, the nurses should be thankful to Dilan and try their best to make themselves useful, but the youngest was behaving as if she was a five-year-old.

Oliver felt immense gratitude towards everything Dilan had done to help him become the person he was.

Others such as Ailee, Pierre, and a few more felt the same, including the two nurses, who had operated on him not too long ago.

“We did our fair share of work as well, so why are you acting like this? It’s not like we have anyone here, who does nothing! Can’t we, at the very least, hope to get a few Essence crystals?” One of the older men suddenly asked in an annoyed voice.

He had been in the group of Survivors since the beginning, but nobody really took notice of him...

But that was only obvious because he was always quiet owing to Jack’s domineering manner.

Even after Jack was no more, he preferred to stay unknown, as Dilan attracted the attention of everyone, turning into their leader that they all had accepted without even realizing to have done so.

That annoyed the old man, which was why he wanted to gain something from the so-called leader.

Yet, his words were too much even for Sarah, who was now beginning to feel bad about her demand for Essence crystals.

Only now did she understand that most of them were acting like spoiled kids in a world where everything had to be earned through hard work.

As such, Sarah felt even worse the moment he heard Ailee’s angry outburst in response to the old man’s demands.

“So far, Dilan has killed hundreds of zombies, protected us from getting exploited, possibly raped, and even killed.

All of you should know that he finished off the other beasts as well...and he gets what from us? Bianne makes him food, Oliver and a few others are also fighting to give him an easier time, but you? You made ONE fucking rat horn dagger in the last two days...woah, amazing! I am impressed!!”

Ailee clasped her hands together, looking at the old man with fiery eyes as if she would skin him alive then and there. She clearly knew just how much Dilan had to suffer because of them.

She also knew that Dilan’s original plan, before he was somewhat forced to enter the hospital, had been to go to the supermarket to get some groceries and leave afterward.

But fate had something else in mind and had sent him inside the hospital. He had been suffering ever since entering the hospital and choosing to stay behind, even after the incident with Jack!

Everyone who had spent some time with Dilan understood that he wanted to fight, become stronger as quickly as possible, and continue to advance.

As such, the stronger beasts inside the hospital and the Gate on the second floor might have been the reasons for him to stay back despite Jack’s betrayal.

After today, she even doubted that there was another reason for him to continue staying with them.

And if Ailee were to be honest, she was also fed up with some of the Survivors, and the only thing that held her back from throwing them out was the fact that they were bound to die if they would try to survive even one day on their own outside the hospital.

“Don’t think I didn’t notice your lazy ass! And the others as well...To be honest, it really is ridiculous that nobody tried to get their hands on new clothes, a mattress, maybe even shampoo or some other stuff from the rooms we cleared today.

We are not running after you to give you guys tasks, but please use your brain to ease everyone’s burden just a little bit, to give those that risk their lives for everyone’s safety some relief and respite.

I am way too exhausted after fighting just a little bit, and I can not even imagine just how dead-tired both Oliver and Dilan are after fighting for several hours with little to no break!”

After Ailee stopped speaking, an awkward silence spread throughout the cafeteria.

Some of the survivors looked at Oliver, and everyone could see the dark circles under his eyes.

It was clear that he was beyond exhausted.

However, the comments of some Survivors, especially the young nurse and the old man had just been too much.

As such, he couldn’t help but be thankful that Ailee was on their side, and that she was trying to put some sense in those who were just empty vessels that made noise but did no substantial work.

There were a few more Survivors that nodded their heads in response to her fierce speech, which was even more reason for Oliver to feel slightly better.

‘Even if it’s just for a few... it is certainly worth fighting for!’

This gave him the necessary reassurance to leave their small circle and find a nice corner to take his share of much-needed rest as well.

Ailee left as well, and so did both Sarah and Bianne.

With this rather intense discussion, the day ended and everyone’s mind was filled with a wide variety of things to think about.

Some Survivors were simply angered by the behavior of Oliver, and Ailee, but deep down they knew that they were correct.

Meanwhile, others were simply ashamed because they had been too scared to take even a single step in front of the cafeteria.

Their fear had overwhelmed their ability to show some confidence, even after Ailee, Pierre, and Sarah told them that the entrance hall was cleared and that the hall on the second floor would soon be fully cleared as well.

On the other hand, the three newly arrived Survivors couldn’t help but feel as if they had left one hell, just to enter a different one.

But this time, there was a trace of hope within them as the older nurse of the three remarked, "I think it will be necessary for us to adjust as well, otherwise, everything will only get worse..."

With that being said, the old nurse stacked the plates before starting to do the dishes.

Not many would see her do something, but as long as all the necessary chores would be completed, nobody would complain, and trouble could be avoided.

And trouble within their own rows was something they didn't need to add to their growing list of problems, they were already struggling to save themselves from the dangers of the outside world!

[Several hours later, early in the morning]

Dilan was having a headache owing to the banging noise that came from the left corridor's door, and the frustration from the behavior of some Survivors.

The banging sound and his raging emotions prevented him from sleeping any further than the few hours that his body desperately required.

As such, he got up from the ground and grasped the Reinforced Stone Spear instinctively before he moved outside the cafeteria.

Contrary to before, a huge metal chain held the cafeteria doors closed.

This made it easier for him to leave as he opened the doors using the key that was hung near the doors.

To avoid making noises, he told one of the three nurses he had saved in the afternoon to come and help him.

She was unable to sleep due to the events of the last few days that terrorized her mind the moment she closed her eyes.

Thus, despite being dead-tired, she tried to keep her eyes open and follow Dilan's command to open the door quietly without having the energy to think what was happening.

"Lock the doors again!"

He instructed after stepping through the doors.

The nurse did as said, only to spend more than ten minutes putting the chains in place to lock the door before she mumbled,

"Is he still angry about last evening? I guess he needs some time for himself."

Shrugging her shoulders, she put back the key before lying down on the hard ground.

'Maybe we should have brought a few mattresses to the cafeteria after we finished dinner...'

Just a moment later she fell asleep, giving in to her exhaustion.

Chapter 34 Night hunt

Even though Dilan was still frustrated about the evening before, he calmed himself down as he walked up the stairs towards the second floor.

His steps were not loud, yet the gloomy silence all around him made his steps echo throughout the surroundings.

However, that was not something that unnerved Dilan.

Rather his mind was able to calm down, while his heart began to beat wildly when he started to hear the sound of an unknown being banging against the closed door on the left corridor.

'Looks like it heard me.'

Taking a glance towards the left corridor, Dilan forgot his earlier frustration as adrenaline began coursing through his veins.

He knew that the next few hours would be thrilling, and worth spending outside.

However, even if he was ready to fight against the powerful being he hoped would be a Bronze monster, Dilan walked through the front corridor.

During the last few days, he didn't pay much attention to his hygiene because his lesser immunity included resistance to bacteria.

Nonetheless, since he had thought of getting a nice bath the evening before, his clothes began to bother him more and more.

Even if they were facing the dangers of numerous monsters and death was lurking around every corner, he was in need of clean and somewhat decent clothes.

Despite washing his body he had been itching for quite a while...

Discarding his old smelly clothes, he picked up a rather loose tracksuit, a loose shirt, new underwear, a pair of socks, and running shoes.

Wearing his new clothes, Dilan felt like a new person.

Feeling as if he gained more freedom and confidence just by changing his clothes, he took a deep breath before leaving the patient room once again.

Turning towards his right, he kept walking through the corridor.

Circulating traces of mana through the tip of the Reinforced Stone Spear, Dilan kept walking and training his multi-tasking ability.

Using mana as often as possible also allowed him to increase his proficiency.

As such, it was even possible for Dilan to retract a portion of the unused mana when he reached the T-intersection.

A few zombies continued to growl from the right as he passed by, but they were locked up in their rooms, so Dilan simply ignored them.

His attention was on his left. Without showing any hesitation, he stepped into the left hallway armed with the Reinforced Stone Spear, ready to end the life of hundreds of opponents.

After taking a few steps, he heard a few growls of zombies from the doors to his right and left.

However as the doors were closed, Dilan ignored them for now.

His main focus was on the ten horned rats and four tiny pig-like bipedal beings, called Krendels.

They were not attacking each other and moved along.

Instead, the monsters were scampering against the wooden doors, trying to break through in order to kill the zombies within the rooms.

Maybe this would interest others, but Dilan brandished the Reinforced Stone Spear before he used his agility that was thrice that of an average human to shoot ahead.

Aiming his weapon at the four Krendels that were the most tricky and strongest opponents, he tightened his grip on the spear.

In one smooth flick of his hand, he slashed the Reinforced Stone Spear across the back of the four monsters that were less than 60 centimeters tall.

Blood gushed out of their bodies and splattered all around as painful squeals bounced off the walls, amplifying the sound a lot more.

But, Dilan simply ignored the cries and readied himself for the next attack.

With the kill, he had turned into the main focal point of attention.

However, that was perfectly fine because his agility was the highest, and so was his strength.

Using his strength and speed precisely, it was possible for him to eradicate the small group of monsters in a matter of minutes.

Puddles of blood formed on the ground, and the growls around him continued to grow louder while the smell of blood permeated the air.

Dilan's eyes gleamed in excitement as he finished the fight.

His speed and agility was no match even for the Krendels when their group had encountered them before.

But now that some time had passed, Dilan's strength was much higher than before, and there was no need to be afraid.

By now, his confidence had increased considerably as he knew that his life and death lay in his own hands.

And to overcome all dangers, strength was the only thing that mattered.

Thus, he collected the Essence crystals of the Krendels and horned rats before absorbing them.

Dilan didn't level up, but he received a total of 1.3 status points, distributed in 0.3 Strength, 0.3 Health, 0.5 Stamina, 0.2 Agility.

This was quite decent, but far from enough for Dilan to be satisfied with his night hunt.

'More rat horns would be great...' he instinctively thought, only to halt in his tracks.

He thought about the way in which the Survivors had acted earlier and he felt like he shouldn't provide them with anything to help them fight.

But then again, without any tools, they wouldn't be able to fight, even if they were to show their desire to do so.

'At least for myself, Oliver, or Ailee it would be useful.' He finished his conclusion and proceeded to cut off the horns of the 10 horned rats.

Leaving the remaining corpses behind, Dilan went ahead.

He ignored the raging zombies in the rooms around him that continued to pound on the door and solely focussed on the monsters ahead.

There were just a dozen horned rats and 6 Krendels that came rushing towards him due to the commotion Dilan's fight had caused.

The number was less than expected, but that was to Dilan's advantage.

Moving quickly ahead, he simply ignored the attacks of the horned rats as he focused on killing the Krendels.

Instead of thrusting their horns in Dilan's leg, the horned rats pounced at him and sunk their sharp teeth into his flesh.

A pained groan escaped his lips, but Dilan kept fighting, and did not let his speed lessen as he continued to assault the Krendels.

Afterward, he swung the flat side of the Reinforced Stone Spear at the horned rats that were viciously digging into his leg like a juicy piece of meat, trying to rip out his skin, flesh and nibble his bones.

But this was certainly not easy because Dilan's health stat was far higher than someone at level 5 would usually have.

As such, his body was far more resilient than the ordinary Ascender, preventing the horned rats from inflicting severe injuries.

Dilan noticed this, which was why he used the Reinforced Stone Spear just like a baseball bat.

The horned rats he hit were smashed against the hallway's walls as the sound of breaking bones reached Dilan's ear.

With one clean swipe, all horned rats were flung far away into the air and on his left leg were removed, lying around him with broken necks, spines, and other severe injuries.

This made it much easier for him to use his free leg to kick at the rats on his other leg.

Smashing his feet on their unprotected back, he mercilessly shoved them away and the resulting force was enough to break their spines and flatten them below his feet.

He was not unscathed, and his legs hurt a little bit, but with the use of [Regeneration], the bleeding stopped almost instantly!

The higher Dilan's Health stat was the stronger his Origin ability.

'I wonder when I can see the requirements to upgrade my Origin ability!'

Just when Dilan thought about this, he pierced out with the Reinforced Stone Spear, cutting open one of the Krendels' heads.

He bend down to pick up the Essence crystal but immediately sensed that something was off.

Instinctively, Dilan's head turned towards his right. His eyes were fixated on the scratched door, and it was just at this moment that he heard a deep growling sound that grew louder.

The door burst open, revealing a zombie, whose entire skin was blue, with short sparks of lightning zapping through the lifeless eyes.

Chapter 35 Oppressed

Dilan's body was leaned forward, and his head turned towards the zombie.

Sharp chips of wood flew through the air as the door fell on the ground with a thud while a small piece strafed his face, slicing his cheek.

Without thinking, Dilan moved the spear, while trying to push himself away from it.

Just at this moment, the blue zombie catapulted itself towards him.

Its speed was much higher than Dilan's, reaching an Agility stat of <4> at the least.

This hit him off-guard as he pushed out with the Reinforced Stone Spear, trying to block off the Zombie's advance.

But it was not very helpful as the monster reached him at once.

Seeing the hideous face of the zombie right in front of him and its stale and foul breath that hit his nostrils almost made him gag. It was trying to bite into his neck and tear out his flesh.

Dilan overcame his repulsion and his body moved instinctively, as his right arm shot upward.

With all his might and the highest speed that Dilan was able to reach, he punched the zombie with an uppercut.

By a hair's breadth, the zombie missed his neck. as its head was flung upward.

The almost inaudible sound of a bone cracking due to the assault could be heard..

It was the zombie's chin that Dilan broke, but even Dilan seemed to have sustained an injury because the knuckle on his middle finger seemed to have cracked as well.

At least, Dilan felt severe pain spreading out from that spot as he howled in pain.

Even if his healing capacities were exceptional, he felt pain just like everyone else as well!

But it was his fast regeneration speed that made him less worried about his hand as he forced himself to endure everything.

The pain was nothing in comparison to having been shot, twice at that.

Grasping the spear with both of his hands, Dilan thrust it forward, aiming for the soft part of the zombie's injured chin.

It would be the easiest to pierce through it, and reach the zombie's brain, even if he did not know whether it was a zombie at or above level 5.

If the zombie in front of him was above level 5, it would be a hassle to break its skull with the Reinforced Stone Spear.

And even if it were to be possible while the zombie was at level 5, Dilan couldn't sacrifice his weapon, for the sake of killing just one zombie.

The rat horn daggers were no match to the Reinforced Stone Spear, and they required it to kill the stronger zombies!

Dilan thus tried ending the fight against the special zombie by issuing a killing blow.

However, despite his fast reaction and counterattack, the Reinforced Stone Spear was unable to reach the blue zombie.

Seemingly out of nowhere, the zombie's eyes gleamed as electric currents passed through it.

Just a moment later, a thunderous sound rang out from around the blue zombie's feet.

Electric currents manifested all of a sudden, spreading out in a small radius around the zombie's feet as it disappeared from its previous location.

If its previous speed had already been high, Dilan was now completely overwhelmed.

This was bad, to put it simply, and he could barely avert the trajectory of his spear thrust to block the zombie and prevent it from reaching him.

Having predicted the path of the zombie's approach, he had saved himself from a fatal blow.

But owing to the increased speed of the blue zombie, the resultant impact of the collision of the zombie's arm with his spear was much higher than before.

The knuckle on his right hand ached horribly, but Dilan didn't want to use his Origin ability right now.

He might have enough mana reserve, yet, the situation didn't allow him to make use of it.

After all, Dilan was not sure if he would have to coat his spear in mana to kill the blue zombie!

As Dilan's spear was blocking the blue zombie, it scrambled and began to flail its arms in an effort to reach him and scratch his hand.

The passive ability [Lesser Immunity] was a lifesaver as it allowed him to be scratched up to a total of four times.

Nevertheless, getting scratched by a zombie was certainly not something Dilan looked forward to, not even once.

And to add on, he had no idea what exactly counted as a single scratch.

If it used its entire hand to scratch him, would that count as five scratches, or just one?

Not knowing the answer, Dilan didn't dare to do anything reckless and risk using up the ability all at once.

However, the excitement to fight a powerful opponent was slowly overwhelming his fear.

Because his opponent was much faster than him, Dilan couldn't help but smile brightly as he decreased the force with which he held back the zombie's approach.

Instead of working against his opponent and defending himself, it was much better to make use of the tremendous force and speed to use it against the blue zombie in a fierce attack.

For the next two seconds, Dilan turned his back from the hallway's wall before he allowed the zombie to reach him.

Slowly taking just a single step back to prevent the zombie from reaching him, he waited for the perfect opportunity to attack.

The zombie took a step forward and Dilan suddenly crouched down.

Using its entire weight, the zombie advanced ahead, nearly pushing into Dilan, whose buttocks hit the ground.

He bent his back and did a backward roll while holding.

the spear in both of his hands.

Simultaneously, he straightened his legs and kicked hard in the zombie's abdomen before rolling back on his feet again.

Through this, the zombie was thrown several meters into the air.

Using both the hands that held the Reinforced Stone Spear he pushed himself up from the ground.

All of this happened in a few seconds but the rapid movements made a fresh bolt of pain shoot up his bruised knuckle.

It was much worse than expected, but to his misfortune, Dilan was not able to rest or pay it any attention.

Turning around the moment his backward roll ended smoothly, he was ready to pierce the Reinforced Stone Spear through the head of the blue zombie.

He saw that it was lying on the ground and that its head was slightly more than a meter away from him.

Thus, he wanted to end the fight as quickly as possible, which led him to use all his remaining strength to rush forward.

Shouting out, he ignored the pain in his right hand, while using an entire unit of mana.

Mana shrouded the blade of the Reinforced Stone Spear as he lashed out with a terrifically high velocity and strength.

The tip of the spear pierced through the blue zombie's rotten flesh and hit hard on its skull, making fine cobweb-like lines appear.

They spread out further, and Dilan's eyes began to gleam lightly as he hoped for the spear to pierce through the hardened skull, killing the zombie for good.

However, at that moment, both of the zombie's arms reached one of his legs.

It was as if the monster's strength had increased all of a sudden as it tried to pull him down, making it impossible for him to free himself.

He sensed that the zombie's sharp nails pierced through his tracksuit, digging into his flesh.

Gritting his teeth, he pierced the Reinforced Stone Spear deeper into the skull of the blue zombie while saying,

"Let's figure out who will die first!!"

Chapter 36 Thunder Step

The cracks on the blue zombie's skull grew wider as the tip of the Reinforced Stone Spear dug deeper into the monster's head, and Dilan began to roar out.

His right hand was in agonizing pain and his right leg felt like it was being ripped apart.

The light in his eyes deepened as his expression turned ice-cold.

Using the roar as a means to force himself to use even more strength than before, Dilan continued to push the Spear and it finally pierced through the zombie's brain.

The zombie began to thrash and writhe in pain, but Dilan maintained an iron grip on the Reinforced Stone Spear.

Even when the blue zombie stopped moving, he did not loosen his hold on his weapon immediately.

His mind had blanked out, and he was breathing heavily, and only now did he realize that his mana had been completely drained.

When he regained his senses, Dilan's eyes moved towards his leg.

The tracksuit was shredded to pieces at least on four different spots, and when he rolled up the tracksuit on his right leg carefully, he saw a total of four scratches on his skin that was bruised and cut.

Even though this was somewhat shocking, Dilan couldn't help but sigh in relief as he took a look at the Log of the Ancient.

[[Lesser Immunity (Passive)] Ungraded ★★☆☆

-Gains small immunity against poison and infections! Immunity includes resistance to zombification, restricted to four scratches/bites a day (0/4).].

It was as expected, and a single drop of sweat trickled down his cheeks as he realized just how fortunate he was.

Just one more to scratch, and he would have turned into a zombie.

This was quite intimidating, but two things distracted him at the same time.

First, he was able to see the upgrade requirements for the [Lesser Immunity] ability.

[Upgrade requirements

1) Essence of '60' infected monsters has to be absorbed [60/60]

2) Health stat of 6 Units [4.9/6]]

It wouldn't take long for him to upgrade his passive ability, which was quite nice.

However, what made him knit his eyebrows was the fact that he sensed a stream of energy congregating above the blue zombie.

He instinctively retracted the Reinforced Stone spear, and prepared himself to fight.

His exhaustion was apparent, which was the reason for him to take a few seconds to realize that an ability crystal was forming!

Faint purplish, and almost invisible strands of light emerged from the Essence crystal of the blue zombie, only to congregate with the monster's released energy.

Dilan had no idea what kind of logic was put behind the creation of an ability crystal, but he could already gauge what kind of ability he would receive.

His prediction excited him a little bit, which was why he didn't observe the empty hallway for too long.

Rather his focus was on the grayish crystal that had faint specks of bronze color within.

[[Thunder Step(Active)] Tier-0 ★★☆☆

-Enhances [Agility] by 30% for 5 seconds per 1 Unit of mana-

When he picked up the ability crystal, his eyes widened in joy.

The ability was simply too powerful. Dilan's lips curled upward, and he started to read the short description of the ability.

[Once activated, creates an ear-piercing noise, and shrouds feet in electricity currents.

Danger Remark: Using it for more than 15 seconds may harm the body with a weak physique!]

The Danger remark seemed to be adjusted to the state of his current physique.

Thus, he nodded to himself, feeling that a sudden increment in his agility might harm him if the duration was too long.

30% were certainly not little, and if utilized properly, it would be extremely powerful.

A situation in which he was overwhelmed by his opponent could turn to his advantage, just by the use of this ability.

This made it pretty clear that there was no need for him to hesitate because the potential of this active ability was extraordinary.

The ability crystal crumbled in his hand, and an influx of energy and information flooded his mind.

[Ability [Thunder Step(Active)]Tier-0 ★★★ has been bound! Congratulations!]

By digesting the information that entered his mind, Dilan's excitement increased only further.

Most of the knowledge he received was about the activation of the active ability, and how exactly each of his movements would alter the effect of the ability.

It was quite complex, but also included knowledge about the utilization of mana, and how it was used to exert the final effect of the [Thunder Step].

This was certainly interesting, and kept Dilan occupied for a few minutes.

However, he later realized that he was still in a quite dangerous area, and that he shouldn't waste his time and return to safety.

With that in mind, the first thing Dilan did was to collect all Essence crystals, and absorb them immediately, while simultaneously collecting the horns of the 12 horned rats as well.

'The more horns the better,' Dilan thought before shrugging his shoulders.

He didn't really care who would use them, and it was just important not to waste potentially good weapons and leave them to rot in the open.

Every single weapon was valuable and a precious resource that could save a life in a fatal encounter with beasts and zombies alike.

Only after he absorbed the Essence of the 12 horned rats, 6 Krendels, and the Bronze Essence of the blue zombie did Dilan take a look at the notification to his right.

He ignored 18 messages because their intel was not important to him, and kept his focus on two particular messages.

[<Bronze> Essence of a Tierless Level 5 Mutated Swiftess Zombie has been absorbed→ +0.3 Health, +0.5 Agility, +0.5 Mana]

[Essence pool has been filled. Host reached level 6! +0.5 Status points can be allocated!]

Dilan knew that he would level up this time, and he had expected to receive quite a few status points as well. But the final number was quite disappointing.

Something was off.

'The Gluttonous Zombie got me 0.6 more status points and essence than the Mutated Swiftiness Zombie... is that because now my level is higher, or because the extraction of the [Thunder Steps] ability required essence?'

It was impossible for Dilan to figure out the definite answer to this question.

As such, he shrugged his shoulders before taking a second glance at his injured leg.

A quick glance to his right and left told him that there was no monster around.

Thus, he entered the door from which the Mutated Swiftiness Zombie had emerged before.

Taking a look at the wardrobe, he saw that there was another tracksuit in it.

Dilan wore the other tracksuit in a matter of seconds, covering the injury on his leg.

It had already stopped bleeding, and thankfully, the wound was not festering.

As such, it should heal quickly.

There was no need for him to use his Origin ability, but even if he wanted to, it was not possible to begin with.

Right now, he didn't have even a single unit of mana to use, and even if he had one unit, Dilan wouldn't use it. He knew that his next opponent was much stronger than the Mutated Swiftiness Zombie.

And that was something he grew excited about!

Chapter 37 Come at me!

Name: [Dilan Cier]

Rank[Tierless (Level 6)]

Race [Human]

Occupation [None]

Title [None]

**

Strength= [2.9]

Health= [5.2]

Stamina=[2.4]

Agility=[3.6]

Mana=[3.0]

Status Points to allocate→1.0

**

-Origin ability-

[Regeneration] Tier-0 ★

-Active abilities (1/2)-

[Thunder Step] Tier-0 ★★★

-Passive abilities (1/5)-

[Lesser Immunity] Ungraded ★★★★★

Taking a look at the Log of the Ancient, Dilan realized once again that a lot had changed since the Primordial Ascension six days ago.

However, he was still not satisfied with how his stats looked.

It might be great for an ordinary Ascender at level 6, but Dilan knew that he had a lot to improve and work on.

Given his current strength, it would be quite difficult for him to fight another Mutated Swiftess Zombie without being scratched.

He would have to use the 1.0 unallocated status points in his Agility to achieve this, which was quite a hassle.

‘Do I need to go outside and search for a wider variety of monsters?’

Dilan figured that levels were quite easy to climb up and surpass as long as one killed enough monsters of a higher level, but the issue was receiving status points.

He considered that it might be a good idea to use the hospital to level up, and to rest, while slowly expanding his hunting grounds to the outside.

His visit to the supermarket was still pending as well, which made it one of his destinations to consider going to, even if it was likely to have been plundered already.

With a deep sigh, Dilan averted his attention once again.

The Gate on the second floor was the place he wanted to take a look at after defeating the monster that had punched dents in the door of the left corridor.

But before he would give in to his excitement, Dilan returned to the T-intersection.

He had made a mistake before by trusting that the doors to the patient rooms would endure the zombie’s strength.

However, his assumptions were proven wrong by the zombies that kept pounding on the doors, making him feel as if the doors would not hold them in for long.

This was also the reason why he entered every single room in the hallway before taking a look at the number of zombies, if they had undergone any kind of mutation or if their level had risen to a dangerous extent.

It was a slow and gradual process, but his mana was slowly replenishing as well.

With a Mana stat of 3 Units it took him slightly less than 90 minutes to replenish everything.

Thanks to his proficiency with mana that was consistently improving, Dilan was actively trying to sense the mana in his surroundings.

It took him a while, but owing to the information he received through the [Thunder Step] ability crystal, Dilan was even capable of pulling traces of mana towards him, accelerating the replenishing process of his mana.

Dilan ignored a few lone zombies that were in the patient rooms, and closed the doors after he figured that they were not dangerous.

Only after a while did he encounter some monsters again.

He had already been waiting for them because the ear-piercing thunder noise of the Mutated Swiftess zombie's [Thunder Step] should have attracted quite a lot of beasts on the second floor.

But nobody came after him, which was quite weird and unexpected.

Dilan was quite impatient owing to his expectation of encountering more than a hundred horned rats.

As such, he used his entire strength to push his feet off the ground as he blasted himself towards the batch of less than 50 monsters.

Because his expectations were too high, his fighting style was far more aggressive than earlier.

He wanted to fight more, and clash with stronger opponents, as he was getting bored fighting the horned rats and Krendels at level 2 and 3.

Their sole purpose was to provide him with Essence and the rats' horns.

Thus, he calmly stored the Reinforced Stone Spear between his back and the backpack after he took two slightly longer rat horns out of the backpack.

Dilan simply stood facing the small army of monsters that was right in front of him. He made no attempts to retreat.

Not a single trace of fear was visible in his eyes, Dilan pushed his feet off the ground to shoot through the rats and Krendels, using both his feet and arms to eradicate the monsters.

Blood splattered on his new clothes, and on his face, smearing him red.

Yet, he paid no attention to it and instead the glow in his eyes intensified, while the excitement that coursed through him made him feel truly alive.

Adrenaline kept circulating through his veins, and Dilan's movements accelerated as he kept hacking and slashing at the surrounding monsters all of whom were dead in less than 10 minutes.

His surroundings turned into a giant mess of blood, intestines, revealed bones, and dead bodies all around him.

Gathering the Essence crystals of all monsters was a hassle because it took simply too much time.

It felt like somebody pricked a needle and burst his bubble he had entered while fighting against the rats and Krendels.

This frustrated Dilan, but he still knew that he required the Essences to level up.

Yet, even after more than 50 Essence crystals crumbled in his hands, he received no message about a level up.

Dilan felt as if he had been betrayed, further dampening his spirits as his mood began to worsen.

However, he understood that this was not really true, and that it was just his frustration that caused him to grumble.

The Essence he had absorbed just now didn't disappear after all.

'I'm getting a little bit greedy, aren't I?' Dilan asked himself before smiling lightly.

Throwing a glance at the Log of the Ancient, he saw that his mana had been fully replenished.

Afterward, he looked ahead, just to see that he was near the intersection that should lead him to the hallway that connected him to the left corridor.

There was still some time left before he would reach the intersection, but that was to his advantage.

According to Ailee's words the left corridor probably had a small open space for guests and patients to rest and relax.

This resting room would be on his right side, while the path towards the door of the left-sided corridor would be to his left.

She said that the Gate where the horned rats and Krendels came from manifested at the end of the resting room.

This would mean that it was likely for the monsters to have created their base somewhere around there.

Dilan found this information quite important but also frustrating because he had to figure out what he should do first.

He could either attack the strongest beast that was ought to be extremely powerful, and choose the left path, or focus on the huge number of horned rats and Krendels on the right.

However, in either case, his back would always be open and unguarded against surprise attacks and unexpected opponents.

While thinking about this, Dilan walked around the corner, entering the hallway that led to all his opponents.

It was impossible for him to know just how many opponents were waiting for him, lurking in the shadows but he was eager to find it out.

'The more the merrier,' he thought, even if it would be a bloody feast and a pain in the ass to kill them all!!

With that in mind, Dilan chose not to overthink the situation.

Instead, he chose the easiest path to fight against all his issues at once.

Taking a deep breath, his grip around the daggers tightened before roaring out.

"Hey, you fucking ugly pigs!! COME AT ME!!"

His voice resounded through the hallway, reaching all the monsters that were lurking in the left corridor.

It was merely a second later that several pairs of eyes looked around the corner, only to see him.

Their small round eyes were filled with thirst for blood; his blood specifically as they ran towards him without a single thought of hesitation.

More and more monsters swam into Dilan's view. The stream seemed endless and they filled the hallway in under a minute!

Chapter 38 Carnage

Dilan's plan had been simple.

By attracting the monster's attention in the hallway, he prevented attacked from behind him.

Everything behind him was cleared, and the patient rooms with only one zombie inside were locked.

As such, the only way to attack him was through the front, which made things much easier.

If the huge monster he presumed to be some sort of evolved rat or Krendel were to attack him without caring about its brethren, it would simply rush through the hallway, bulldozing its way through dozens of monsters to reach him.

This would allow Dilan to focus on fighting against the stronger monster because their fight would kill the monsters around him, either way.

On the other hand, if the huge monster were to care about its brethren, it wouldn't trample over its own kind.

And this was even better than the first scenario. It rid Dilan of his opponents without even doing anything so he couldn't complain.

It was an efficient plan that didn't require a lot of thought to be implemented.

The only thing one needed was courage, and no fear of being injured.

Because both applied to Dilan, he was ready to face the beasts ahead.

The large monster had yet to enter his sight, but that was to his advantage..

Using the momentum, he catapulted himself ahead, wielding the two longer rat horns.

Killing the Krendels and horned rats was quite easy with the two weapons.

They were sharp enough to inflict injuries as long as enough force was used.

His strength was double that of both the horned rats and Krendels.

Only the Krendels' agility was slightly faster than half of Dilan's agility stat.

But that was not nearly enough to get their hands on Dilan as adrenaline was pumping through his entire body was overflowing with the excitement to fight with all his mind.

It had been accumulated because his battles had always ended way too quickly.

His strength and combat prowess had improved considerably but the monsters he had been fighting since the last six days were still at the same level, except for a few mutated zombies, who had given him some tough time. But, even they ended up dying at his hands.

This had been frustrating as he had been restricted.

Yet, right now, he was able to give his all, and fight for a very long time, at that.

The fight was bound to be difficult to win, but that was the best part about the current situation.

Kicking at the masses of rats skittering over the ground, he made several rats fly through the air.

Using his weapon, he slashed two rats while they were still mid-air, only for their blood to splatter on his face.

Entering amidst the crowd of monsters with fast strides, his shoes trampled over many monsters under his weight.

Fighting like a ferocious beast that had been unleashed, Dilan slashed, thrust, kicked and stomped on monsters.

Using all kinds of tactics in order to defeat and kill the opponents around him, a vibrant smile emerged on his face.

It made him look like an insane killer as his entire body was drenched in blood.

His brown hair was unrecognizable, and it was almost as if his sky blue eyes had been affected as well.

The beautiful, once crystal clear eyes now shone with a maniacal delight, while blood was streaked across one of it.

However, this didn't restrict Dilan in any way, and neither did it harm him owing to the passive [Lesser Immunity]!

Never halting his fight, Dilan turned into a flash as he advanced several meters, just to retreat once again.

Even if his entire being told him to keep advancing and to slaughter his way through the masses of monsters, the last remnants of his rational mind prevented him from doing this.

He had no way of securing himself against attacks from behind which meant that he had to be extra vigilant.

Thus he advanced several meters, slaughtering everything in his way before he had to retreat.

Unsure of how much time had passed or how many monsters he killed, Dilan just noticed that his hands were slick with blood making him lose his grasp around the two rat horns.

That was an unnecessary annoyance.

But instead of wasting his time, Dilan threw the horns towards his opponents, puncturing one, while another one was hit with the horn's backside, knocking it out.

Wiping off the blood on the rather clean backside of his clothes, he got ready to kill again.

He had backed off several meters, giving him the necessary space to get hold of the Reinforced Stone Spear.

Meanwhile, he kicked a Krendel, sending it flying in the crowd of monsters before he could start the second round of his carnage.

Making proper use of the Reinforced Stone spear, he slashed out, slicing several horned rats in half as if he was cutting vegetables.

Using his extraordinary high speed, it was possible for him to defeat dozens of monsters within seconds.

'A halbert, glaive, or a scythe would be a perfect weapon,' Dilan thought, only to keep smiling as he ended the life of one monster after another.

He had long since lost count of how many monsters died at his hands, but Dilan was pretty sure that the number of corpses in front of him was close to the accumulated number of monsters he eradicated before this fight!

And this was something exciting, highly addictive, and he wanted more of it!!

As such, the moment Dilan made eye contact with the huge Krendel that was more than two meters tall, and had a huge physique, he couldn't help but feel a shiver run down his spine.

'Finally!!'

The huge Krendel had a horrendous-looking pig head, a body that resembled a brown-furred Yeti, thick legs and feet that flattened one horned rat under them after another as it mercilessly squashed them.

While walking through the huge hallway, the monster looked eerily calm.

The four razor-sharp claw-like black fingers of the huge Krendel scratched over the hallway's walls on both sides, leaving trails on the blood-soaked walls.

But that was not even the most interesting because it almost looked like the huge Krendel smiled when it noticed that Dilan looked at it.

Dilan's right hand ached a lot, but he had forgotten about it during the slaughter before.

Even the earlier battles had made him concentrate on killing beasts making it look like his injury had never existed.

But right now, an itching sensation emerged from the central knuckle on his right fist, causing him to feel like he had to enter the fight immediately.

Otherwise, his right hand would act up, preventing him from releasing his peak combat prowess during the next few minutes.

Dilan knew that this was required to fight the dwindling number of weaker beasts while trying to find the weak spot of the giant Krendel.

Because it didn't seem to possess one!

'The spear will break the moment it pierces through the Krendel's fur. That is if it will be able to do that in the first place...'

Licking his dry lips, he prepared for the attack.

Slashing, thrusting, and kicking, he annihilated the beasts around him.

Meanwhile, the huge Krendel didn't take a single glance at the monsters it mashed as it kept advancing.

When it saw that Dilan killed all the monsters around him, it began to smile and didn't think much as it used its strength to push ahead.

With a mighty push, its speed accelerated at once, crossing the limit Dilan was able to reach with his heightened Agility.

It was only a small difference, but Dilan couldn't help but feel a little bit dumbfounded.

'It's not a monster that focuses on Strength or Health??'

Chapter 39 Lethal

In a matter of seconds, the huge Krendel reached Dilan, slashing at him with a rapid speed.

Trying to use his high agility to evade the huge claw that was out for his life, he clearly realized that the Krendel's speed was higher than his.

The difference was not too large, but still noticeable.

Thus, just by using his flexible body and ignoring the pain in his body when he twisted it, was it possible for him to evade the attack.

Instinctively counter-attacking with a spear thrust while evading the Krendel's huge claw, the Reinforced Stone Spear impacted on the Krendel.

However, to his extreme misfortune, it was exactly like he presumed it to be.

His attack was easily blocked, barely piercing into the dense brown fur.

But without the time to truly bother about this, Dilan could only use one unit of mana to activate the [Thunder Step] ability.

The moment he thought about activating the ability, it was already utilized.

As a reaction, an ear-piercing sound came from him.

Small electric currents shrouded his feet and a few centimeters around them..

Feeling the difference in his Agility, he pushed his feet off the ground and shot past the huge Krendel before thrusting out once again.

Unfortunately, the result was the same as before, useless.

It was as if his attack was nullified, and not even the impact was clearly noticeable.

Because Dilan clearly noticed that this was not how he would win the fight, he shot past the huge Krendel, choosing to eradicate the small hassles that were less life-threatening but far more annoying.

Right now, for a total of five seconds, his speed was higher than the huge Krendel's, giving him the opportunity to turn into a flash as he shot through the entire hallway, and reached the T-intersection.

To his right was the Gate that gleamed in the bright blue color Dilan was already familiar with.

It was less than 100 meters away.

Somehow, seeing the Gate, Dilan's entire demeanor calmed down a little, including his excitement to fight.

He was only a little worried to die right now.

After all, his legs were still uninjured, and his Agility was higher when using the [Thunder Step] ability!

Being scared or overly worried would simply distract him from accurate observation, and utilize his combat prowess well.

Thus, it was advantageous that being cowardly or afraid to face stronger opponents was something unknown in Dilan's vocabulary.

A single glance to his left was enough for him to see the closed door that connected the large hall on the second floor with the left corridor.

There were only a few monsters left, and most were lying dead over the floor of the hallway, their corpses littered all around him.

Dilan didn't even know how many beasts he had killed in the last ten or so minutes, which was only something he could see as he looked back at the hallway.

The huge Krendel was also behind him, but the 30% enhancement he had received had been too high.

A few meters separated the two of them, and Dilan's mind rattled to think of a way to, at least, injure the Krendel, and noticed that their distance reduced drastically.

He didn't find a good solution, with the exception of two areas, or to be precise five body parts, to attack!

While he could almost attack every single part of the face, such as its eyes, ears, nose, and mouth, there was also the beast's buttohole!

It was unlikely for him to reach the last option.

Even if he were to pierce his weapon in the beast's buttohole, Dilan couldn't help but think that the Reinforced Stone Spear would simply break.

Imagining it was certainly not nice, and he nearly shivered, before discarding the thought from his mind.

Dilan was thus able to use the last second of his 30% enhancement to push himself in front of the huge Krendel.

This was something it didn't expect to happen, which was why it tried to reach out to Dilan.

However, owing to its rather long limbs, and large physique, it couldn't immediately grasp him.

Through his simple observation, he gained a slight advantage.

Making use of it he catapulted himself in the air while using all his might and the accumulated momentum to his advantage, piercing out with the Reinforced Stone Spear.

Even if it might not be the best target, he aimed for the Krendel's nose and attempted to pierce it to penetrate through the monster's skull as well.

Yet, what Dilan didn't expect to happen was that the Krendel noticed the immediate danger.

It stopped its advance at once, and halted abruptly, causing its ankle to crack.

Dilan found the beast's presence of mind quite astonishing.

But Dilan was still calm as he tried to change the trajectory of his thrust.

His altered attack cut in the Krendel's pig nose, but it was not possible for him to cause greater harm to it.

In fact, his current position mid-air was quite problematic, which led him to lift his leg to push himself away from the Krendel, using its wide body as its launching pad.

Just as he pushed himself away, the Krendel's razor-sharp claws reached Dilan, giving him a sharp cut on both of his upper arms.

This was still fortunate as the Krendel couldn't find the opportunity to grasp him when he had launched himself backward.

Landing on a pile of corpses, his back was drenched in all kinds of liquids.

It was a disgusting feeling, but Dilan was not able to give it a second of his attention.

He had to get up from the ground, and ignore the unbearable pain shooting up his right hand, and his arms.

It kept him alive and made both his vision and mind crystal clear.

Dark red blood trickled down his arm in rivulets.

Thus, he could barely think about using [Regeneration] once as he was not sure if he would die of blood loss otherwise.

The pain that coursed through his arms was severe, but Dilan was not even able to tell how much blood he was losing right now.

His mind was solely focused on the Krendel, whose nose was bleeding.

It was a good sign that he could, at the very least, injure the soft parts of his opponent's body with the Reinforced Stone Spear.

And there was something else he had figured out with the help of the [Thunder Step] ability- with an Agility enhancement of 30% he was quite a bit faster than the huge Krendel!

This was everything he had to know in order to be certain that he should turn the advantage of a short burst of speed into something permanent!

With that in mind, he used the 1.0 unallocated status points from his last two level-ups to crank up his Agility to [4.6]!

Tremendous energy coursed through his body all of a sudden, and Dilan could immediately sense the difference in his strength.

It allowed him to ignore the pain that coursed through his arms and his right hand.

After all, the next clash was just about to begin, and the winner of their fight had yet to be decided!

Chapter 40 All-in

Not even with [Regeneration] utilized did the severe bleeding from both of his upper arms stop.

The blood flow had decreased, but that was already it.

He didn't even notice this as his focus was on the Krendel ahead of him.

Owing to his enhanced Agility, the huge Krendel was slower than him, which allowed Dilan to prepare a new attack.

But before he could do that, he had to keep observing the huge Krendel at first.

Dilan was not yet aware of the monster's strength, and only its high Health stat was quite obvious.

After all, the injury on its nose had begun to heal. It had almost stopped bleeding, but that was something he had already expected.

The huge Krendel was, at least, a Bronze monster and certainly above level 5.

Using his speed to his advantage, Dilan advanced.

He approached the Krendel with all his might, and easily evaded its first attack, just to take a precise look at the second slash that followed in short succession.

His physical strength might be way low than the huge Krendel's but owing to his speed it was possible to create a situation in which the monster would injure itself!

After he evaded the first slash, Dilan moved closer to the huge monster..

Dilan was waiting for its second attack, and slightly moved a step in the direction of the right forearm that had already brushed past him.

The first attack of the Krendel missed him.

His position was right next to the Krendel's right forearm, while it slashed out with its left.

The attack it initiated was precise, but Dilan thrust out with the blunt backside of the Reinforced Stone Spear with all his might.

He didn't need to pierce through the monster's hide and intended to avert the claw strike's trajectory, which was exactly what happened.

A faint crack could be heard as bits of linen clung to the lower part of the spear's shaft.

However, that was to be expected as the Krendel's claw was averted, changing the trajectory of the attack by a few centimeters.

But these few centimeters were more than enough to injure its right lower arm severely as the razor-sharp claws cut through the dense brown fur, its skin, and the monster's flesh.

The Krendel had been enraged about the fact that Dilan had been able to injure its nose.

Because of the small injury that was not worth mentioning, the huge monster lost its cool and made a reckless move which resulted in it ending up injuring itself severely!

Blood spurted out of the deep wound that had been accidentally created by its very own four claws.

When Dilan saw this, a faint smile appeared on his lips.

He was sure that he would be able to use the chaos of the situation, and the deep injury to his advantage!

A burst of adrenaline shot through his fully tense body.

This gave Dilan the necessary push to move rapidly.

Escaping the reach of the huge Krendel, he threw a short glance in the direction of the monster, just to grasp the opportunity.

The huge Krendel roared out in rage as its yellow teeth glinted in the little light.

Its vision turned red, and the only thing that it wanted at that moment was to kill Dilan.

Thus, the moment Dilan emerged in front of it again, it ignored the deep injury on its right forearm as it clenched its fists.

Desiring to squash him, the Krendel used all its might to smash its fist on the ground, exactly where Dilan was standing.

He was bound to be mashed into a pulp the moment the fist hit him.

However, Dilan had already disappeared from his earlier location.

All of a sudden, his Agility stat elevated as an ear-piercing noise filled the entire hallway.

The lingering remnants of electricity currents could be seen a few centimeters in front of the area where the Krendel had bashed his fist onto.

Meanwhile, Dilan had already catapulted himself towards the head of the huge Krendel, holding the Reinforced Stone Spear in his hand that was gleaming faintly.

One Unit of mana had been used up to activate the [Thunder Step] ability, increasing his Agility to a total of 6 units for five seconds.

But these five seconds were more than enough for him because Dilan knew that this was the last attack he could inflict on his opponent so easily.

Blood spurted out from his arms owing to his rapid movement, and he thrust the Reinforced Stone Spear forward.

There was a faint, almost inconspicuous gleam around the spear tip emerging from the faint trace of mana his body had absorbed during the fight.

It was less than 0.1 unit, but it was better than nothing as he gave his all in this one attack.

Using the force that resulted from his terrific high speed, Dilan pierced forward and towards the head of the huge Krendel.

Even if it were to owe an advantage in terms of strength, and defenses, Dilan knew that it was impossible for the Krendel to evade his attack.

This gave him the confidence to gather all his strength at one point as the tip of the spear reached the Krendel's left eye.

The monster's eyes widened in shock after perceiving the sudden appearance of a gray glint merely a centimeter away from its face.

Time seemed to slow down all of a sudden as the tip of the Reinforced Stone Spear pierced through the huge Krendel's right eye.

Sensing the resistance of the eye, Dilan forced his way through its eye, and a delighted expression appeared on his entire face.

However, it was barely a moment later that Dilan's expression stiffened.

Too many things occurred at the same moment.

A bright glint of craziness replaced the desperation in the huge Krendel's eyes as it moved its head all of a sudden.

In the blink of an eye, it bashed its head forward using its terrifically high strength.

This only resulted in the Reinforced Stone Spear piercing deeper into the head of the monster, worsening the injury.

But shockingly enough, the sudden action of the Krendel was enough to break off the upper part of the spear!

The steel-hard bones of its eye socket had impacted too hard on the spear, breaking it as if it was a thin twig.

Yet, that was not everything as the huge pig-head didn't stop in its advancement.

Continuing to roar and thrash around, it bashed its head on Dilan's unprotected head.

Unable to evade the attack, Dilan's head collided against the rocklike head of the Krendel, and for a moment he felt as if the world started spinning around him.

However, he was not even able to tell what was going on anymore as his sight blurred.

Trying to hold onto the remains of the Reinforced Stone Spear, he tried to look around but his body was smashed to the ground by the Krendel's mighty headbutt.

His mind went blank, and he began to see stars in front of his eyes as his breathing grew shallow and blood started to run down his forehead.

The attack that should have killed the huge Krendel merely injured it, while Dilan ended up on the ground in front of the monster, feeling like his body was a wreck.

He was not sure where left and right were, and he felt as if his skull cracked open. To his misfortune, only for his one and only proper weapon has been broken.

Even if Dilan was excited and nearly addicted to fighting stronger opponents, the final result of this battle was truly something unexpected.

Even breathing had now become a painful task...and it looked like his life would end at any moment.

'Is that how it ends?' He couldn't help but wonder for a moment, only for a faint glint of unwillingness to emerge in his eyes.

'Fuck it, it's only over once I'm dead!!'