

World 131

Chapter 131: Absolute Defense

Jack could feel his whole body aching, but since he could still move around, that's mean he had survived. He hurriedly checked his HP bar. He lost almost 300 HP in that one hit despite it being blocked already by a shield. Combined with the other wounds he had gotten since started tangling with this Queen Ant, he had below 200 HP left.

He looked at his Round Shield, and was surprised to find that its durability was only 6 points left. That one hit had also directly taken 30 durability of his shield away.

The Giant Queen Ant rushed towards his position, it completely ignored the others. Good thing was Jack had been thrown quite a long distance away, hence he had the time to took out a basic healing position and drank it. The Queen Ant made another leap attack. Jack rolled away from its landing point before he engaged it again.

"How frequently can it do that air bullet attack just now?" Jack shouted to the others.

"Not often, once around fifteen minutes give or take," Sinreaper answered.

Good, Jack said in his mind. Fifteen minutes should be enough to chip away its remaining HP. He wouldn't want to face that air bullet move again. Silverwing and Jeanny rearranged their positions to follow after Jack. They coordinated with the Magicians to deliver bits of damage while Jack suppressed the Boss.

"Good! Keep at it, it will fall sooner or later," Silverwing motivated everyone.

When the Giant Ant Queen's HP fell to around 15%, it suddenly jumped back and squatted down. They all scattered, thinking that it would perform another leaping attack. But it stayed in its squatting position. The dark red carapace was giving off a black mist. The mist then enveloped its entire body. After that display, it got back up. Its large compound eyes shined with a mocking glint, as if daring the intruders to attack.

It then shot out, its speed seemed to have increased by a bit. It dashed towards Jack as usual, Jack rolled out of the way. Despite its speed increase, Jack was still faster. The other got into their positions again. Bluedaze sent a Magic Bullet, which hit the Queen Ant at its back.

Did I miss? She was confused.

She saw Sinreaper casted the same spell. She paid attention to the spell as it hit squarely at the Giant Queen Ant's mid-section. Now she noticed it, there was a small 0 number appearing.

"Ze— zero damage?!" She exclaimed.

Silverwing who had also scored a hit at the Queen Ant's rear also noticed the problem.

"I think that mist had increased its defense or even granted it invulnerability," he said.

"This is bad," Sinreaper commented.

Jack took a risk to make a hit. His damage was also zero.

"This type of buff should only be temporary, let's just wait until it expired," Silverwing said.

Easy for you to say, I'm the one that is holding its aggro! Jack commented in his heart.

But the Giant Queen Ant suddenly made a turn and dashed to another corner. Jack was flabbergasted by the sudden change. It seemed like the Boss was now targeting Bluedaze, who immediately ran away.

"Why is it targeting me?" She yelled with frustration. She didn't think that she had done anything that should have made her get targeted. The boss might have gone back to its random targeting mode again.

She could not escape the Giant Queen Ant, she could still cope with the Boss' speed before the buff, but now she was completely outmatched. The Magic Shield that she had summoned could not cover the barrage of attacks. She was soon shredded.

"Damn!" Silverwing cursed, but then added another curse when he saw the Queen Ant was coming at him, "Crap! It is coming to me!"

He rolled away when the Queen Ant's front legs came slicing. He was faster than Bluedaze so he had better chance at survivability. Jeanny who was closed by took this chance and used her special move, Penetrating Stab!

When the spear thrust into the Giant Queen Ant's body, it produced 69 damage. Both her and the others were surprised by the successful attack.

So the buff was just an improved defense? Since Jeanny's move ignored defense, she managed to damage it.

The Giant Queen Ant cried in anger for the damage and made an abrupt turn at Jeanny. Its scythe leg swiped horizontally. Jeanny who was still dazed by her own successful attack did not react fast enough to dodge. She only managed to put her spear in front of her body to parry the swipe. She was thrown away by the impact.

The Giant Queen Ant strangely did not chase after her, but dashed to another direction again. This time Sinreaper was the target. They realized that in this phase, the Boss was making its assault randomly. Since Sinreaper skills and stats were roughly the same as Bluedaze, he wouldn't be able to survive the assault.

As the Giant Queen Ant came closer to its target, Jack made his decision. If he was still holding back and waited for the buff to expired naturally, there will be another that might lose their lives. The Storm Breaker in his hand made a humming sound, then it broke apart and released tremendous energy. Golden light enveloped the sword while black lightning could be seen occasionally around it.

The others who witnessed it was stunned by Jack's weapon transformation.

What kind of sword was that? Was the question in everybody's mind. They stayed rooted in their place, even Sinreaper who was currently being charged at by the Giant Queen Ant, had completely forgotten about the monster and instead staring with wide eyes at Jack.

Luckily for him, the Queen Ant sensed a threat from the energy exuded by Jack's Storm Breaker. It made a turn before reaching Sinreaper and faced Jack instead. It swiped its fore limb with the massive scythe-claw towards Jack. Jack met it head-on, executing Power Strike at the incoming attack.

The sword and claw met. A loud clang sounded out from the impact. Surprisingly, it was the Queen Ant's fore limb that was thrown back. The force caused the Giant Queen Ant to lose balance.

Jack used Charge at this time and ram himself onto the Boss' mid-section, further causing it to topple sideways. The Charge which connected resulted in 126 damage. Jack figured it must be because of the Chaos type damage from the Overlimit skill. Peniel did mentioned that this type of skill could bypass most defenses.

Not wasting any time, Jack sent consecutive slashes as he remembered another of Overlimit's effect was it could reduce the target defense. Each of his normal slashes caused damages above 100.

The Giant Queen Ant pushed herself up to stabilized its position. At the same time, it raised all three of its right-side legs and stabbed it downwards at Jack. Jack had to forego his assaults or he would be impaled by three large pikes.

He rolled backwards. When he rose, he swiped his sword in the air and sent out his Sword of Light which was already off cooldown. It cut through one of the Queen Ant's legs and completely severing it before crashing onto its body. No critical, but the damage was still impressive at 216 damage.

After being hit by the Sword of Light, the Giant Queen Ant was just a hair breath away from 0 HP. Jack dashed forward to deliver the final strike. The Boss, as if sensing the danger it was in, leap backwards into the air. But since one of its legs was missing, its jump was not perfect. Its body slanted sideways and the altitude and range from its jump was not as great as its previous ones.

Jack was not about to let it go, his Overlimit ability had a short time limit. He roughly only had half a minute left. He pushed his speed to the limit as he chased after the Giant Queen Ant.

The others were still staring at Jack's battle with the boss with gaping mouth. They were having trouble wrapping their heads around the sight. Not long ago, it was the Queen Ant chasing after them while they were running like headless chicken. The view in front of them now was the other way around. The Queen Ant was dragging its feet trying to run away from a single Player.

Jeanny was the first to wake up from their trances, as the direction the Queen Ant was running to was closed to her. She lifted her spear and lunged at the approaching monster.

Chapter 132: Clearing The Dungeon

The Giant Queen Ant had obviously remembered this Fighter who had managed to deal a damage to it despite its absolute defense. Even though her damage was not as scary as the Warrior behind it, it would still be fatal if it received another damage. It broke to a stop while slashing both its front limbs forward.

Jeanny herself were not in good HP condition, so she also did not dare to make a daring attack. She whirled her spear to block both slashes. The Queen Ant was sufficiently cunning. As it saw Jack was

gaining at it, It arranged so the slashes it deliver to Jeanny pushed her to Jack's direction, blocking him. It then squatted again, planning to make another leaping escape while Jack was being hindered by Jeanny.

"Use your spear to give me a boost!" Jack yelled while he continued running at his full speed even with Jeanny directly in front of him.

Good thing Jeanny could think fast and understood Jack's meaning. She held her spear horizontally while facing Jack. Jack jumped up and stepped on her spear while she heaved her spear up. In real life, this would not be possible as she would not have enough strength for it. But in this game world, she was a Fighter with high strength stat, hence pushing a full-grown man into the air was not out of the question.

Jack added his own push to his legs. By combining both his leg strength and Jeanny's push, his body shot into the air, just as the Giant Queen Ant made its jump. To the Giant Queen Ant's consternation, their bodies crossed in the air. Jack swiped his Storm Breaker right as the Queen Ant's head passed by him. It sliced the head cleanly off its body.

The two of them landed in the ground, with the difference was that the Giant Queen Ant crashed down without her head. Its head was bouncing a distance away before rolling to a stop.

All of them then heard a voice notification, "congratulations, your party have successfully cleared the Giant Ants Dungeon. Each surviving member receives 10,700 experience points and 3 gold coins"

It was soon followed up by another notification, "congratulations, your party is the first to clear the Giant Ants Dungeon, receiving first clear reward!"

And another, "displaying ranking in clearing the dungeon. Each member will receive dungeon clear reward based on their rankings:

First rank: Storm Wind

Second rank: Warpath

Third rank: Jeanny

Fourth rank: Selena

Fifth rank: Silverwing

Sixth rank: Queen Magenta

Seventh rank: Sinreaper

Eight rank: Bluedaze

Ninth rank: Honeycomb

Tenth rank: Silent Night

You may opt to leave the dungeons at any time," the notification ended.

Silent Night was the ranger from Wicked Witch that had gotten the first death, jack did not know about her name till now. He then received a private notification informing him that 3 gold coins and an item

had been added into his inventory bag. He checked his bag and found a newly added item that looked like a lockpick with golden color.

Enduring lockpick (rare tool)

Lockpick count: 12

Replenish 1 count every hour

Increase lockpicking success chance by 5%

Jack was elated after reading its description. This tool would save him by reducing the need of keep on stocking up on lockpicks, and it had the additional ability to increase the success chance. Any additional success chance added would be a blessing as he had experienced how long it took to unlock one treasure chest.

A glowing light materialized in front of them and fell to the ground, it then turned into a small item with diamond shape, its design looked much like his adventurer and hunter badge. He inspected the item and found it to be the first clear reward, Guild Creation Token, that Silverwing and Queen Magenta had been targeting for.

Jack looked back at where the Giant Queen Ant's corpse used to be, the corpse had disappeared and in its place were seven items and a few coins. He went there and collected them before bringing them back to the group to be distributed. The Guild Creation Token was oddly still on the ground.

"Why are you not picking it up?" Jack asked Silverwing.

"We are waiting for you," he answered. "You are the only one that can pick up the first clear reward and Boss' loots."

"Heh? Why is that?" Jack was surprised.

"Because you are the first rank player."

"Is this the rule of the dungeon?"

"It is the rule we have selected," Silverwing explained. "When we first enter a dungeon, the group was given the option to vote for how to distribute the first clear reward and Boss' loots. The option was the loots will be decided by the leader of the party or the first ranker. Since we are formed from two different guilds and are not exactly trusting of each other, we just set the decision for the first ranker. So it will depend on our own ability."

"I see, but why did I not receive the voting chance?"

"You took your time when entering the dungeon," Sinreaper replied. "The voting process had ended on a majority of voice. So once the system detected six participants agreeing on the first ranker choice, it did not need your participation anymore."

Jack nodded. Ironically though, he was the one that ended being the one that the system had given the rewards to. He bent over and picked up the Guild Creation Token. He looked at it for a while, then tossed it over to Silverwing. He had no use for that thing.

"Much obliged," Silverwing commented with a smile. "Now, about the Boss' loots. We decided that the distribution's right will be at the hand of the first rank player, but it will still need to be distributed, so if you don't mind sharing the statistics so we can choose. Of course, you will have the priority to choose as agreed beforehand."

"Hehe, does this mean if I want to, I can just keep all the loots?" Jack asked with a playful smile.

Sinreaper frowned at the words, but Silverwing kept wearing his amicable smile.

"I believe you are not that kind of person," he said.

"You shouldn't put your trust too much on me," Jack replied, "but you are right, I'm not that kind of person. All right, I will make my pick first, then I will show you the rest of the six items. As you see, they are all still in my hands and not yet put inside my storage bag, so you know I ain't cheating."

"That's fair," Silverwing said.

Before Jack delivered the killing blow to the Boss, Warpath and the others were still on their way to exit the dungeon. Unfortunately for them, the path that they had took before had been repopulated by another batch of Giant Ants and Giant Ant Warriors.

They had been fighting their way to the exit for a long while now, but they were still only half-way through. The reason they took such a long time was because they no longer had any recovery potion left. Hence, they were engaging the monsters with extreme care.

They made sure they didn't pull too much monsters to combat at a time, and in the fight, they focused more on defense so as not to lose any HP. It was a tiresome fighting style, all three of them had been wearing dark faces along the way.

"Damn it! This is really a fiasco! It's a big mistake to ally with those incompetent White Scarfs people. I should know better!" Queen Magenta just could not stop grumbling every other minute.

"This is all because of that pretentious Storm Wind," Warpath said. "He was just acting like some expert which he is certainly not. We have completely wasted a spot in the Party when we could have taken a better player who can contribute."

"That's right! I will make sure to settle this failure with him once we are out of here!" Queen Magenta exclaimed.

"Let me know, I will gladly help! No fee for that," Warpath was gleeful. At least failing this dungeon was not completely fruitless, he could soon get rid of an eyesore of that Storm Wind who had dared to steal his spotlight during the Tutorial period.

When they were still grumbling, they heard a voice notification, "congratulations, your party have successfully cleared the Giant Ants Dungeon. Each surviving member receives 10,700 experience points and 3 gold coins"

Chapter 133: He Must Have Cheated!

The three of them were stunned with complicated expressions on their faces. They found it hard to believe what they had just heard. The monsters that were in front of them just now had miraculously vanished once the notification voice sounded.

"Successfully cleared... but, how...?"

They soon heard another notification after, "congratulations, your party is the first to clear the Giant Ants Dungeon, receiving first clear reward!"

"The first clear reward!" Queen Magenta exclaimed. "Quick! We have to get back to the Boss' hall!"

Before they could start heading back, another notification sounded, informing them of the rankings. Warpath's face was immediately dark when he saw the name on the first rank. The other two women also wearing grim faces. The agreement for the Guild Creation Token had been based on who got the first rank. Storm Wind was White Scarfs' helper. Hence, by right, that reward should go to them.

Se... second place again? Warpath was unwilling, "no! There must be a mistake. He must have cheated! There is no way Storm Wind could have cleared the dungeon and got the first rank. We have been fighting the boss for so long and we had also taken out most of its HP. Even if he came later and kill the boss, he still should not be the first rank!"

"In any case, we should go back to the Boss' hall to find out," Selena suggested.

"Yes, let's go!" Queen Magenta affirmed and the three of them rushed back to the Boss' hall. Since there were no more monsters around, they should be able to arrive back at the hall in a short time.

Jack had inspected all seven items. There were two uncommon materials, one uncommon tool, and two uncommon equipment, one rare equipment, and one rare accessory.

'I have to ask,' he said to Peniel in his mind. 'Why do I feel that the rewards from this dungeon are much less compared to the Monster Settlement? Even though the difficulty is somewhat higher? I don't think I would have been able to clear this dungeon by myself if given the chance.'

"It was common to be so," Peniel replied. "Let me remind you again that the settlement was not supposed to be taken alone. It was meant for a party, and there is no limit to the number of the party. While here you are only limited to ten people. If you divide the rewards from the settlement between twenty people, you won't find the rewards much different from what you get here. And also, a dungeon usually has an alternate way of solving its difficulty. If you just rely on brute force, the difficulty will be several times higher. You finding that nest filled with eggs must be the alternate solution to this dungeon."

"Another point to be taken into account is the risk involved," Peniel added. "In a dungeon, you will only lose 1 level. However, a monster settlement is considered as part of the wilderness. If you died when assaulting the settlement, you will lose everything. So it made sense if the rewards are better in Monster Settlement, since the risk is much higher."

'I see.' Jack thought that Peniel's explanation made sense. With that thought no longer bothering his mind, he turned his attention back to the Boss' loots.

Amongst the seven items, there were three that caught his eyes. The uncommon tool was a camping tent that had an alarm function, the rare equipment was a one-handed sword, and the rare accessory was a necklace. With just a brief thought, Jack decided the necklace to be the obvious choice. He had three accessory slots which at the current time only had one ring equipped. He looked at the necklace stats.

Purifying Pendant, (rare necklace)

All mental status effect resistance +10%

Negate all mental status ailment once, cooldown: 1 hour

Status effect resistance, was it the kind similar to that disoriented status effect he got when fighting the Horned Ogre Boss? He sent his question to Peniel, 'Peniel, that disoriented status from before was a mental status effect, wasn't it? How many status effects are there?'

"You seriously never paid attention to your status window, do you?" Peniel voice sounded in his mind.

'I got the information in my status window?' Jack opened his status window after hearing Peniel's comment. He shifted through his window pages, but no page with information on the status effect. 'Where is it?'

"In your attributes page," the fairy replied.

He went back to the attribute page. It was the same as before, the page only showed information on his attributes. He was starting to believe the fairy was making fun of him. He asked annoyingly, 'I don't see any status effect info here.'

"Do you not know how to scroll down?" Peniel replied with an equally annoyed tone.

"Oh," Jack said, he scrolled the attributes page, and there indeed was additional information down there, and it was actually a long list.

Elemental Resistance:

- Fire resistance = 0

- Ice resistance = 0

- Wind resistance = 0

- Earth resistance = 0

- Lightning resistance = 0

- Light resistance = 0

- Dark resistance = 30

Physical status ailment resistance:

- Burn = 0%

- Freeze = 0%

- Bleed = 0%
- Poison = 0%
- Paralyze = 0%
- Blind = 0%
- Cursed = 0%
- Weakness = 0%

Mental status ailment resistance:

- Dizzy = 0%
- Disoriented = 0%
- Rage = 0%
- Confused = 0%
- Charm = 0%
- Fear = 0%
- Fatigue = 0%

'That are a lot of resistances... I understand about the elemental resistances and some of the physical status effects. But for the mental status effects, apart from disoriented, I don't know about the others. What happened if I got afflicted by them?'

"Do you want me to spend the time to explain all of them to you now?" Peniel asked.

Jack turned and realized what her tone was implying. Silverwing and the others had been patiently watching him all this time. 'later then,' he said to Peniel.

"I will take this necklace," Jack told the others. "Here are the rest of the items."

He gave the items to Silverwing. "So how will you distribute them?" He asked while he equipped the Purifying Pendant onto his neck, now he was only lacking another ring, then he would have fully completed gears on his body.

"As had agreed with Queen Magenta, we will distribute them based on the rankings in this dungeon," Silverwing answered.

"You really are going to stick to that rule? I heard they left in the middle of battle? If you just keep the loots, there is nothing they can do about it, right?" Jack said, but then he realized Jeanny was there, he then said apologetically, "ah sorry, I didn't mean it."

Jeanny just smiled, "they did act dishonorably by leaving."

"Anyway, I will still stick to our agreement," Silverwing said. "Not my principle to break my word."

Jack nodded, "good man."

"Well, since the second rank is Warpath, we can't claim any of these loots first," Silverwing said. "Miss Jeany, please inspect these loots, I will need to put them in my inventory in order to bring them out from this dungeon. You will be the witness to determine they were the same items when I show it to your Queen Magenta."

When Jeanny was inspecting the loots, they heard a sound from the entrance of the hall. They turned and saw three people coming. They were Queen Magenta, Warpath, and Selena who had left previously. They wore expressions of disbelief as they approached.

"It was real?" Queen Magenta said when he was near, "you people had slain the boss?"

"There must be a mistake here!" Warpath snapped, "there was no way they could have defeated the boss. You! You must have cheated! How did you get the first rank when it was impossible for you to kill the boss?"

Jack looked at him as if he was looking at a retard. He could not believe this guy.

"We truly did slay the Giant Queen Ant," Jeanny came out to mediate. "It was not easy, it was all due to mister Storm Wind that we—"

"Silence, you girl!" Queen Magenta cut her words, "why are you with them? Do you not consider yourself as a member of Wicked Witches anymore?"

Jeanny frowned, why did she bring that up? Was she expected her to not help the White Scarfs group in fighting the boss when she found out that they had left?

"Where is the guild creation token?" Queen Magenta demanded.

"That token is now the property of White Scarfs, as we had agreed. We had won fair and square," Silverwing said.

"What fair and square, you obviously have cheated with that guy!" Warpath said again while pointing at Jack.

This guy is getting out of hand. Jack could feel his anger rising.

Chapter 134: Exiting The Dungeon

"That's right," Queen Magenta added, "the boss was obviously not an opponent we could kill at our current level, and with our current stocks of recovery potion. So there must have been some tricks you guys pulled. Please hand over the token, we will decide the ownership some other ways."

"Aren't you being unreasonable?" Sinreaper uttered with discontent.

"What unreasonable, I am already kind enough to not demand possession of the token directly. We will discuss another way to determine who will get it."

"No!" A resolute voice was heard. They all turned to the one that had spoken out, it was Jeanny.

"You stay out of this, little girl!" Queen Magenta uttered.

"No! You are a disgrace! I have seen them take out the Boss with my own eyes," Jeanny said. "I've helped them fight the boss. It was very clear they had win fair and square. Who are you to ask for a demand after you yourself fled in cowardice?"

"How dare you!" Queen Magenta was fuming. "You traitor! Do you still consider yourself as our member? Do you want to be expelled?!"

"If the guild condoned your preposterous act, then I am ashamed to be a member of it!"

"You...!"

"Stop!" Selena came in between them to stop things from going out of hand.

Silverwing spoke out at this time, "in any way, the token is already in my hand. And I have no intention to give it up to you. If you are not satisfied, you can try to take it by force. I won't mind returning it in kind."

Queen Magenta glared at him, but she soon realized that she had lost. The item was already in Silverwing's inventory bag. Even if she killed him, there was no guarantee the item would drop. And she had no confidence that her guild would win if they went to war with White Scarfs guild.

"Since the token had been taken, we will leave it at that," Selena said, she gave a look to Queen Magenta that told her to let go of the matter. Queen Magenta agreed by being silent, but her face still showed extreme displeasure though.

"In that case, we will leave. Jeanny, let's go," Selena said.

"Wait," Silverwing called out. "It is true that the token was already ours. But as agreed, we will share the Boss' loots. I'm not like some person who will go back on her words just because I am suspicious of the other party."

Queen Magenta glared at him when she heard the sarcasm.

Silverwing ignored her and displayed the six items in his hand. "We will distribute based on ranking as agreed. Mister Storm Wind had taken his prize. There are six left, which coincidentally are the same number of the surviving people here. Mister Warpath, you are the second rank, please take your choice."

Warpath mouth twitched when he heard himself being called second rank. It's the second time now he had lost to Jack. Although he still believed that Jack had cheated, he didn't see a way to force him to admit his dishonesty. So he swallowed his pride and inspected the items in Silverwing's hands.

In the end, he chose the rare one-handed sword. Jeanny went next, she chose the uncommon camping tent. Selena and Silverwing chose the uncommon equipment. The remaining uncommon materials were given to Queen Magenta and Sinreaper.

After everything was distributed, they all agreed to leave the dungeon. After the dungeon was cleared, there was an option to leave immediately from where they were, so there was no need for them to go all the way back to the entrance.

Outside the dungeon, Scarface and the others from Death Associates were gathering not far from the entrance. They had failed the dungeon and had come out for some time. Both them and Corporate United had lost some people in the dungeon, but they had managed to escape and come out safely from the entrance.

They had heard that White Scarfs and Wicked Witches had gone into the dungeon as well not long after them, and still had not yet come out. They had assumed those two guilds' players must have all been obliterated inside.

When Jack and the others had cleared the dungeon, the notification that they had cleared it was also getting broadcasted around the entrance of the dungeon. The people of Death Associates were discussing their experiences within the dungeon and talking about the strategy for their next skirmish. All of them were shocked when they suddenly heard the broadcast.

In addition to that, besides the dungeon entrance, a stele had magically appeared out of the ground. On its surface was the record of the ten persons that had cleared the dungeon for the first time. Scarface and Red Death had gone to look at it. They were utterly dejected after hearing the notification, and after they saw the rankings listed on the stele, their expressions were becoming even grimmer.

Bigarm had followed them into the dungeon and was one of the people that had died inside. Thus the guy had been sent back to the capital after reviving. If he was nearby at the moment, Scarface did not know if he could resist the urge to kill him himself. The guy had created such a thorny enemy for their guild.

"How the hell did they clear it?" Red Death said. "We have reached the boss as well. It was still a manageable opponent by itself, even when its life fell to half and summoned ten minions, we could still manage it. But on its second summoning, hundreds of its minions came out, I don't think anyone would have survived fighting that swarm with the Boss still around. I just don't see any way to defeat them all at our current stage."

Scarface was contemplating Red Death's words. He had also agreed that such condition was impossible to be dealt with, unless their levels were much higher or if they had skills that could deal damage with a large area of effect. "They must have found some other ways to deal with the swarm that came out during the Boss' late phase. It doesn't matter now, the guild creation token had been taken. We might as well spend our resources elsewhere. If later we learn the secret, we can come back again for this dungeon. Otherwise, it was too wasteful to keep on sacrificing the level of our members just to find out about the secret of clearing this dungeon."

"I agree," Red Death said. "What about the people of Corporate United? Are we still cooperating with them?"

"They will also lose interest now that the Guild Creation Token is no more. Never mind them, they can continue with this dungeon if they want, but we will not take part in it anymore."

"Alright. What about that guy from White Scarfs?"

"Tell him to keep staying there first for the time being. If this operation had been a success, it won't matter if we have fallen out with the guild. But because they had gotten the token, they will have a head start, better if we have someone inside to monitor things. Tell him not to worry, he will be compensated

for his trouble. When we had assembled all the members of our guild that had arrived in this world, a small guild like White Scarfs won't be a problem at all."

"I will have people relaying that message."

"Damn it, when I got that leak about the token, I thought we can start having a foothold earlier than the other guilds here. Such a pity..." Scarface sighed with unwillingness.

"Can't help it. Now we need to increase our pace in collecting gold coins. We can only establish our guild the normal way."

They then went back to reorganize their people. Since this dungeon was no longer important, no reason to station so many people here. They would discuss arranging other tasks for the members here.

While they were still chatting, a ripple appeared in the air near the dungeon entrance. The ripple turned into a ball of energy that pushed nearby people away. The surrounding people were stunned by this sudden turn of events.

The ball descent and landed on the ground, before dispersing and revealing seven people. The people around came closer to see and found out that the seven were part of the group from White Scarfs and Wicked Witches, who had just cleared the dungeon.

Both members of White Scarfs and Wicked Witches that were stationed around the dungeon immediately erupted in cheers. They acted like people that had just welcomed their heroes and heroines back. While the people from Death Associates and Corporate United could only stare in jealousy.

Chapter 135: Showing His Fangs

Queen Magenta however, was not in the mood to enjoy their cheers. She immediately sent out orders for their members to gather.

Warpath was also not feeling well for hanging around. He bid Queen Magenta goodbye and walked away from the place.

But before he went far, he heard a provocative voice.

"Hey, runner up! What's the hurry?"

Warpath had known the source of that voice before he even turned back.

"How dare you! Are you tired of living?" He snapped at Jack. The others who were just about to go away minding their own business stopped in their tracks, they all turned their attention to those two players.

Jack smiled despite the threat, "heh, you have been running your mouth all this while. Do you know why I never bother to deal with you in the dungeon?"

"What are you trying to say?"

Jack pulled out his long sword, "it won't be satisfying if you only lost 1 level."

The crowd was in an uproar once they heard Jack's words. Jeanny was about to go and stop him when she was held by Queen Magenta.

Queen Magenta said with a wicked grin, "I don't know where his confidence comes from, but he will soon know the reason Warpath is well known amongst game experts."

Jeanny said with a wry smile, "actually... I was trying to prevent it because if he kills Warpath who was our guild's ally, he might come into conflict with us."

"What nonsense! You are just a little girl who knows nothing. Get the hell back and just watch!" Queen Magenta said with dissatisfaction.

Selena only frowned when she heard Jeanny's comment.

On the side of Death Associates, Red Death whispered to Scarface, "should we use this opportunity to assassinate him?"

"No," Scarface replied. "The guy had scored the first rank in the dungeon, I don't think it was a coincidence. He must have gotten stronger compare to before. I also do not think he is a reckless person. He should already see us around, yet he still chooses to take action here, meaning he is confident even if we interfere. Let Warpath probes him first, we will react according to the situation."

Dashrunner who was organizing the other members of White Scarfs around the outskirts of the dungeon entrance came to Silverwing, "should we give a hand?"

Silverwing glanced at the group from Wicked Witches and Death Associates, then said, "no need. But pay attention to those two guilds. If they make a move, then we will too."

"Affirmative," Dashrunner replied.

Warpath was not about to let himself be intimidated. He pulled out his two swords, Jack recognized one of them as the rare sword from one of the Boss' loots. Warpath gave an evil grin, "boy, I was still thinking of a way about how I should deal with you, but you just give me a reason to. Now I am going to teach you the difference between real skill and luck."

Jack couldn't help but laughed, "it's funny and annoying at the same time every time I see you people who keep on linking fame with strength."

"It is because of my strength that I become famous," Warpath exclaimed.

"And now it is my strength that will take your fame away," Jack retorted.

Warpath gave a loud laugh, "haha! You can try, boy!"

"Then I will," Jack said before his body released blood red aura. His already high attributes skyrocketed once he used the Life Burning Art.

Warpath was stunned by Jack's sudden change, he had also sensed a suffocating pressure when the red blood aura appeared. His response was delayed due to the abnormal development and failed to react when a crescent light suddenly shot towards him. The light crashed right onto his chest.

He felt the pain as a horrific red number appeared above him, 298 damage! His HP pool was 380. This one hit had taken the majority of his HP away, leaving him with only 82 HP left. The sudden turn of events terrified him.

No critical? Jack thought it's a pity, the fight would have ended right then and there if the hit scored a critical. He still had the extra damage multiplier from the Whetstone and the Chicken Wing food, hence he wanted to take advantage of it before it expired. Despite he knew he had a complete advantage in attributes, Jack must admit that Warpath's fame did not come from nowhere. Jack reckoned his martial ability should be not far from Red Death's level. Hence, he had decided to take down the man here and now, since the man had shown extreme hostility against him. He chose to halt the man's growth so that he did not become a big threat later.

Jack used Charge while Warpath was still in a daze. Warpath was startled again by a move that he was not familiar with, but he managed to control his body to dodge this time. He jumped sideways while rolling his body and slashed, making a dodge and counterattack at the same time. Jack must admit the guy's degree of control over his body movements was indeed excellent.

However, the speed and reflex Jack got from his attributes' advantage were not to be underestimated either. He reacted to Warpath's counterattack by canceling his Charge and ducked from the slash. He then sidestepped to the direction Warpath had jumped to. His speed allowed him to arrive at that spot just as Warpath landed on the ground.

Jack's speed caught Warpath off guard again, he hastily tried to dodge Jack's slash which was aimed at his neck when he landed. His hasty dodge caused him to be off-balance. Jack used the chance to swiped his imbalanced feet using his leg. This swipe made him completely lose his balance and fell on his back.

Before his back even touch the ground. He saw Jack swung his sword down. The sword connected with his torso and he could feel a tremendous force pushed him down and slammed his body heavily onto the ground. The ground cracked with a loud boom as his body sank halfway into the ground.

His eyes were still staring in disbelief before it all turned dark.

Jack sheathed his sword after executing the Power Strike. The damage from this move had completely devoured Warpath's remaining life. The crowds that were standing around them were gaping with their mouths open. They were expecting an exciting battle, and many even favored Warpath's chance in victory. Yet, not even half a minute had passed, the outcome of the battle had already been decided.

Especially Queen Magenta, whose eyes were so wide that people might have mistaken her for having eye disease. She had just scolded Jeanny for her illogical comment, yet the illogical phenomenon had appeared right before her eyes. She kept on asking herself was that truly Warpath on the ground? Why was the fight so one-sided?

Red Death and Scarface were wearing a gloomy look. They had expected Jack to had gotten stronger, but wasn't this a bit too ridiculous? They had known about his crazy high attributes, but now he also exhibited a range of skills that were completely foreign to them, especially that first strike move he had executed, the damage and speed were absolutely frightening.

If it was them instead of Warpath, who was a Fighter, that had been hit by that skill, they would have been killed in just one hit. Where did he find such an absurdly overwhelming skill? Not to mention as

well the red aura on his body, they were sure that aura gave him some kind of buff which furthered his advantage.

Silverwing looked at the crowds around. He could understand their consternation. He himself was rather surprised. He thought he had seen Jack's every move in the fight with the dungeon boss, but after seeing the red aura on Jack's body, apparently he still kept another ace hidden. He wondered if there were still other secrets Jack was keeping from them. But with him slaying Warpath in front of this crowd, he had finally showed his fangs to the gaming community. People would not dare to treat him as a nobody any longer.

Chapter 136: Collecting The Bet

Warpath's body disappeared and left behind two items. They were two swords, Jack was ecstatic that one of them was the rare sword from the Giant Queen Ant's loot. He immediately picked them up.

Queen's Protector, level 15/35 (rare one-handed sword)

Physical damage: 62

Attack speed: 2

Durability: 40

Endurance +2

Parry skill +2

The other sword was an uncommon level 14 sword. He stored them into his inventory, he would use both to strengthen his Storm Breaker later.

He turned around and walked to where Queen Magenta stood. When she saw Jack coming towards her, she immediately began to panic and took a defensive posture.

"W— what are you trying to do?" She yelled.

"What are you panicking for?" Jack said to her. "I just want to remind you about the bet we made yesterday. Certainly you still remember?"

"Be... Bet?" Her mind was in a mess so it did not occur to her at first.

Selena whispered to her ear about it. Her face then contorted to beyond ugly. They had lost their chance to get the Guild Creation token. Now they could only establish their guild by regular means, which involved spending gold coins. If she gave their hard-earned gold coins to Jack, it would further delay their progress.

But when she remembered how Warpath had died, she could feel cold sweat running down her forehead. This Storm Wind guy was passive whenever she and Warpath mocked him, but when he acted, he did not hesitate to act viciously. He was the type that did not bark, but would bite. She had no doubt if she tried to refute the bet, the guy might turn to violence.

She had many members around this place to help her, but with how fast Jack had killed Warpath, it would take him even less time to dispose of her. Her members might not reach her before she was wasted. Not to mention there was no guarantee that the group from White Scarfs won't interfere.

With that thought, Queen Magenta reluctantly took out the three gold coins and handed them to him. Jack received the coins with a wide grin.

He was about to walk away, but Jeanny stopped him. She said, "About what we talk about, regarding me and my life here, I will think about it."

Jack nodded. He was glad to have heard it. She was a nice girl, he would hate it if she let herself be confined with people who did not actually respect her. He was just about to go when he thought of something. He immediately turned back to her and said, "I almost forgot, I was about to tell you something when we were in there."

"What is it?"

"If you really like to use a spear, when you could upgrade to your advance class. Pick Knight class instead of Warrior."

She had heard from her guild teammates who did the research in the library, the Fighter class could change into either Knight or Warrior class when they reached level 15. But none of the info about these two classes mentioned anything to do with spear. He asked with a confused look, "why is that?"

"Because when you get stronger and could upgrade to an Elite class, you will find a branch class from there which utilized spear-wielding."

Elite class? Her guild member researchers didn't mention anything about this. "How do you know?" She asked.

"Trust me," Jack said with a wink, then walked away without further explanation.

Selena came to Jeanny after Jack left, she asked her, "what was that all about?"

Jeanny shook her head, "nothing, just some friendly chat."

Queen Magenta was also approaching, when she heard her words, she immediately spat, "Friendly? So you are making friends with our enemy, now? Do you still consider yourself as a member of Wicked Witches? You need to know now that your family was nowhere to be found in this world, you won't worth shit in our guild. If you know what's good for you, you should learn to be more obedient from now on!"

She left after saying her piece. Jeanny stared at her back. She was thankful to her, she had just helped her make up her mind.

"Don't mind her," Selena consoled her. "You know how bad-tempered she is."

"Yes, and I just realized how foolish I am to have let her have her way with me all this time."

Selena was surprised by her reply, but was more surprised to see a resolute expression on her face instead of a sullen expression. She said worriedly, "don't do anything rash."

Jeanny turned to her and said, "I'm not. In fact, it has never been more clear to me. You have been one of the few that are nice to me in the guild. I would like to thank you."

"You..." Selena was out of word when she realized her intention, but Jeanny had walked away before she could talk to her further.

On White Scarfs' side, Silverwing saw Jack walking towards him. Jack extended a hand that hold one gold coin to him. "Your share," he said.

In which Silverwing waved his hand and replied, "keep it. This Guild Creation Token had saved my guild ten gold coins. What is a meager one gold coin? Take it as our payment to you for helping us clear this dungeon."

Jack thought for a bit, then decided to accept it. "All right, I thank you then."

"You will come again if we need further help?" Silverwing asked.

"With sufficient payment, I don't mind," Jack replied.

"Certainly," Silverwing said.

"All right then, I will bid you gentlemen farewell. Give my regards to Bluedaze and Honeycomb. It's a pity they died in that dungeon."

"It's just one level, they can get it back in no time."

Jack nodded. He walked away after, leaving the crowds who in the majority were still staring at him.

In bushes not far from there, Blackjack and a few of his lackeys were in hiding. He had come out safely from the dungeon with Red Death and Scarface, but after hearing that Jack was among the group that had entered the dungeon after them, he had immediately called his friends over to prepare an ambush. When Jack had started provoking Warpath, he had seen it as a golden opportunity. He was going to wait for a perfect chance to deliver a fatal strike while Jack was preoccupied with Warpath.

But after the short exchange that ended up with Warpath's demise, he was glad that he did not reveal himself too soon. He was having a cold sweat when he thought about what he had been planning to do.

"Are we still going to ambush him?" One of his friends in hiding asked.

"Ambush your sister!" He spat. "Do you not see what he did to Warpath? Do you think any of you can hold your ground against him for just half a minute?"

His friends turned silent. He thought to himself, maybe it's not a good idea to entangle with that guy again.

While walking, Jack checked his Hunting Quest statuses. He had completed almost every of his hunting quest except for the Cave Trolls and Ogres. He remembered to have encountered these monsters nearby here, at the place where he had saved Jeanny's team. He decided to go complete these remaining two quests first before returning to the capital.

He spent the remaining afternoon hunting for the two monsters. He found a series of cave entrances near where he first encountered the monsters. Jeanny's team must have stumbled upon one of these caves and aggravated the Cave Trolls inside into attacking them.

Jack didn't bother to bait them to come out, he just went into the caves and slew them all. In each cave, he met several Cave Trolls and one Ogre. After entering four caves, he had met his quota. He collected a few coins, 11 Troll's Tooth, and 2 Ogre's ears which were the monsters' trophy loots.

With the hunting quests completed, he traveled back to the capital.

Chapter 137: Technique Book: Dragon's Eye

Jack made the Hunters Association his first stop after entering the capital. He submitted all his hunting quests, netting 3400 experience points and 43 hunter points. For ten numbers of quests, the experience point reward wasn't much to look at. But when Jack handed over all the trophy items he had in his possession, the girl at the counter gave him 1 gold coin and 60 silver coins. If the guild players know they could collect coins this fast by hunting, they would have done their best to pass their advance class trial in order to be able to join the Hunters Association.

Jack looked into his inventory purse and admired the coins he had. He now had a massive number of 67 gold coins! The guild players would be banging their heads onto the wall if they knew about it. He could establish a formal guild six times with this amount of coins.

"You still have something you can hand over to the association," Peniel said as she floated beside him.

"Oh? What is it?"

"The Monster Settlement Core. That could be considered as a trophy item as well."

"This?" Jack took the core out. He then passed it to the counter, "do you accept this as well?"

The girl's eyes turned wide when she saw the Settlement Core in Jack's hands. "That is a Monster Settlement Core!" She exclaimed. "Certainly! Let me have a look."

She took the core into her hands and examined it. After inspecting it to be a true Monster Settlement Core, she stored it and paid Jack another 5 gold coins. Jack was overjoyed. The coins seemed to just keep coming and coming. He would not need to worry about money for a while.

The counter girl also filled another 80 hunter points onto Jack's hunter badge as an additional reward for the core. Jack's hunter points immediately shot past the 100 points threshold, and he was promoted with Silver grade Hunter Badge.

"As the first Outworlder to become a silver grade hunter, let us bestow you with VIP status," the counter girl said. Since Jack had also gotten the VIP status from Adventurers Association in the same way, he was no longer surprised. He went ahead with the procedure.

When he thought his business was done already, the girl said, "and for being the first Outworlder to vanquish a Monster Settlement, we will bequeath you with a special reward of 1,000 hunter points."

"So much," Jack blurted out, but he gladly gave the counter girl his hunter badge to be filled with these additional points. He now had 1,123 hunter points. To become a gold grade hunter, he would need 10,000 hunter points, so he was still a long way from it. Nevertheless, he was glad to have acquired a large boost of hunter points so early.

"I can also exchange the points for items, right?" He asked.

"Sure. Would you like to view the exchange list?" The girl asked.

"Yes, please."

She opened up the interface that showed the list of items that could be exchanged. Jack browsed the list. Most items were materials, ingredients, with common and uncommon equipment, more or less similar to the list in the Adventurers Association. So Jack just scrolled it briskly to the end of the list where the exclusive exchange items were. Same as in the Adventurers Association, there were four items in the exchange list.

Recipe: Hunting Bow (expert blacksmith grade) – 90 hunter points

Recipe: Nature's Blend (expert alchemist grade) – 90 hunter points

Recipe: Well-done Steak (expert cooking grade) – 90 hunter points

Recipe: One with Nature (expert scroll-making grade) – 100 hunter points

"All are recipes?" Jack said with a little bit of disappointment in his tone. He was more proficient in Blacksmith and Cooking. He obviously won't use the bow, should he exchange for the steak recipe? He was hesitating.

"How about we take a look at the exchange list in the Silver Hunter hall?" Peniel proposed.

Jack thought it was a good idea. After all, he had over one thousand hunter points already. His points might even be sufficient to exchange for one of the exclusive items in Silver Hunter hall. He then thanked the counter girl and hurriedly made his way to the Silver Hunter hall.

When he arrived in the Silver hunter hall, he noticed that the hunting quests posted on the notice boards were mostly for monster level 20 and above, and Peniel advised that the locations of those monsters were a rather long distance away from the Capital. Apparently, he had become a silver grade hunter too early. He might need to go back to the bronze hall again later to pick up hunting quests that were more suitable for him.

Jack went to the counter and showed his Hunter Badge.

"Mister Silver Hunter, what can I do for you today?" The lady at the counter asked politely.

"I would like to take a look at the exchange list, please." Jack said.

"Certainly. Here is the list."

Jack browsed the items on the list. They were definitely better than the ones in the Bronze Hall. Most of the items were uncommon grade. The types of items were mostly the same, ingredients and materials at the half bottom, with equipment at the top half. He also found common gemstones and uncommon

gemstones amongst the items on the list. But since he had not touched runecrafting yet, he did not bother with them. He also saw several rare pieces of equipment in the top ten of the list.

He kept on scrolling, he was more interested in the exclusive items on the list. After all, the regular list items would stay in the list forever, he could exchange for them anytime provided he had enough hunter points. But the exclusive list was a different matter. Once someone took the item inside, it would be gone for good. Since he was the first one to become a silver grade hunter, he needed to take advantage of it by gaining the first choice on the items under the exclusive list.

After scrolling all the way, he finally found the exclusive list. There were also only four items in the exclusive list, the same quantity as the ones in Bronze hall.

Greatsword of the Beast (rare two-handed sword) – 1000 hunter points

Swift Tracking Boots (rare boots) – 950 hunter points

Camouflage Tent (rare tool) – 980 hunter points

Technique Book: Dragon's Eye – 1100 hunter points

From the four items, he could use three. He was not interested in the Greatsword as it couldn't be fed to his Storm Breaker. The boots could be a nice replacement for his current equipped boots which were still common grade boots. While the rare Tent was also tempting. He was still using a common grade tent till this time. He could not just ask Peniel to keep watch every time he spent the night in the wilderness, could he?

The fourth item was a Technique Book, Dragon's Eye. Sounded imposing, and it was also the most expensive amongst the four. In fact, all of them were expensive, even with the Hunter points he had now, he could only exchange for one of them. But he thought it made sense, after all, the item quality was another grade compared to the Bronze hall choices.

"Hey, which one should I choose?" Jack asked Peniel who was flying around the hall. Since currently Jack was the only outworlder inside the Hunters Association, she didn't need to hide.

Peniel came by and glanced at the list. "Dragon's Eye will be the obvious choice," she said.

"Oh? Is it that good?" Jack asked.

"Let me put it this way, those other three items, when you reach Elite class, you probably will throw them away. But that Dragon's Eye skill, even Elite classes will fight to their deaths in order to get that skill."

"So good?" Jack was astounded by Peniel's words. He believed her words of course. She was already like a flying and talking encyclopedia to him, everything he did not understand he would simply ask her about it.

"All right then, if you want to spend, might as well spend big. I will take that Dragon's Eye Technique Book!" He said to the counter lady.

The lady processed his request, subtracting his hunter points then handed him back his Hunter Badge together with an ancient-looking leather book. There was an image of a dragon on the book's cover. Its eye was depicted with bright red color.

Technique Book: Dragon's Eye (Super Rare Consumable)

Grant the skill: Dragon's Eye

Restriction: Advanced class

A super rare grade! No wonder Peniel said it was the best compared to the other. Fortunately, its restriction was only for advanced class. It did not force him to choose a certain class. He still had that Body Double book that required him to choose Mage advanced class. If this skill required him to choose another different class, he would have to let go of one of them.

Chapter 138: Meeting An Old Acquaintance

After spending his hunter points to get the book, he only had 23 hunter points left. He went back to the Bronze hall to pick on hunting quests. He was not planning to focus on hunting, but since the quests did not have a time limit. He could just apply for it and work on it while he was doing other things.

He asked Peniel what monsters were common and easy to encounter for levels ranging around 15 to 20. Peniel advised him to retake the hunting quests for Silver Wolf, Goblins, Grey Sabrecat, Gremlins, Gnomes, and Lizardman, since Jack didn't plan to go anywhere far. They were the most common monsters around this region.

She then told Jack of some higher-level monsters that were also easy to encounter, but they roamed a bit further from the capital. It was Green Harpy, Bald Eagle, Fire Jackal, and Giant Worm. Jack followed Peniel's instructions without any question and applied for the quests.

When he came out of the Hunters Association building, the sun was already about to set. He planned to applied for his Mage advance class since his Magician class had already reached 15. But after giving it some thought, he decided to do it tomorrow morning. He felt rather tired already at the moment, since yesterday night he had slept late due to fighting the Monster Settlement. Might as well have an early rest and challenge the advanced class test tomorrow.

He walked around the marketplace to look for some equipment for sales. He had collected quite a number of common equipment in his bag, if he could buy more, he could transform them into higher-grade version using his Transformation Box. Since he had enough coins now, might as well abuse his advantage.

He went around from shop to shop, spending around 16 silver coins to buy a number of common equipment required for the transformation. He also spent another 24 silver to buy 12 common Magic Staffs. He already had five uncommon Magic Staffs if including the one he was equipping, he just needed three more, and he was going to use these 12 common ones to create another 3 uncommon Magic Staffs.

While he was shopping, Peniel said to him, "since you have many coins, how about go buy some Magic Scrolls?"

'Magic Scrolls? What are they for?' Jack asked.

"They are one-time-use magic tools. Each scroll has a pre-recorded magic spell stored inside. When you release the magic, it will take effect but the scroll will be destroyed. But having a powerful Magic Scroll can give you a strategic advantage, as it allows you to use spells even if you haven't learned those spells, and it doesn't consume your mana."

'All right, let's look for the shop then.'

Jack asked a local NPC for direction. When he was asking, he suddenly noticed a familiar face. The guy was selling foods in a simple stall with another woman. Jack was unsure if his memory was correct, so he went closer.

"Bill?" He said to the man after he approached.

The person turned to him. His face had a puzzled expression at first, but then his eyes turned wide with realization. "You!" He exclaimed, but then bewilderment overcame his face again, he seemed to be trying to remember something. And then he uttered, "Jack! You are the young man who came to my house."

Jack nodded. "That I am. So how are you feeling after dying once?"

"Young man, don't joke around like that. It's really not a pleasant experience."

"Who is this?" A woman beside him asked.

"This is Jack, the one I mentioned to you before." He then turned to Jack and introduce the woman, "remember about the wife I said was missing when it all started? This is her. Apparently, she was the same as me, she got killed as well, though it was by a zombie."

"My name is Ellie," She introduced herself to Jack.

"So, what are you two doing here? You open a shop?" Jack asked them.

"It's just a temporary stall," Bill said. "Apparently, even in the afterlife, you still need to pay to do business."

"Afterlife?"

"Yes, isn't that what this place is? How do you die by the way? Do you get killed by that big monster too?"

Jack had the urge to facepalm himself. The guy was clueless before this, and he was still clueless at this time. He then inspected him out of curiosity. *Crap! Still at level 1?*

"You have been spending all this time selling food after you got here?" Jack asked.

"Yeah, it's difficult at first, but after mingling with some of the crowds, We started to show them that we can cook. And so they started to commission us to cook while they provide the ingredients. After a while, we started charging them coins. The business had started to pick up lately."

"That's good to know," Jack commented while browsing his merchandise. He looked at one and inspected it.

Spicy Fried Noodle (Apprentice grade)

Recover 50 HP, Recover 1 HP every 5 seconds in and out of combat for the next 3 hours.

The food effect was like the weakened version of Fighter's skill Natural Body Recovery, but it had a plus point as its effect still took place even during combat. He then looked at another food.

Sweet Dumpling (Expert grade)

Recover 250 HP, Increase Damage by 10% and reduce cooldown time of skills by 10% for the next 6 hours.

Jack was amazed, this food was even better than the one that Silverwing let him eat before they went into the dungeon this morning. And it was Expert grade?

"What is your cooking level now?" He asked.

"Cooking level?" Bill was putting on that puzzling expression again.

"He is at Advanced Apprentice, while I am at Basic Expert," Ellie interrupted when she saw her husband was at a loss.

Jack looked at her, it appeared that she was more aware of what was going on. "You are already at expert level?"

Ellie nodded with indifference, "cooking is all we do since we got here anyway."

No wonder they were still at level 1 but their cooking grades were already so high. It seemed that to survive here, it was not all about increasing one's level. Players could also focus on one of their auxiliary skills in order to make a living.

"Why don't you try to open up a permanent shop?"

"We tried, but just to buy a land required a huge sum of coins. We do not have enough."

"How much?"

"The cheapest plot of land in the outskirts of Business District cost 100 gold coins. Honestly, I'm not sure until when we will be able to save to have enough coins to buy a plot of land. After that, we still need more coins for constructing the shop. It's such a hassle."

One hundred, that's too much, Jack thought. Even with the gold coins he had, he still could not afford one. He had thought at first that he could maybe finance them with the coins he had, and took some profit share from their trade, something like an investor. But apparently, he was still not as rich as he thought.

"Let's become friends then, so we can keep in contact with each other," Jack offered. "When I have enough funds, maybe I can help you build that shop."

"Aren't we already friends?" Bill asked with a clueless face.

Ellie smacked him on the head, she then guided him to work on the processing system. Jack was glad that he did not need to be the one to guide him. After they officially registered as friends, Jack bought five of their Sweet Dumplings at 3 silver each. Ellie explained that their prices were pretty much set by the system, they could increase or decrease within a range, but the range was not large.

The Sweet Dumpling gave a good combat boost, he told them he might become their regular customer. But then he thought if he started to rely on their foods, then his cooking skill might get neglected.

After thanking them, he went to the direction of the Magic Scroll shop.

Chapter 139: Magic Scrolls

The magic scroll shop was rather large compared to the other shops he had gone to, and the appearance of its façade showed that it was rather high class. Jack did not admire its façade for long, he stepped into the shop and found himself in a spacious hall filled with many shelves. Each shelf had many scrolls displayed on them. He approached one of the shelves and looked at the scrolls on display.

Fireball I scroll

Cast a level 1 fireball spell

Lightning Strike III scroll

Cast a level 3 Lightning Strike spell

Magic Bind I scroll

Cast a level 1 Magic Bind spell

Group Haste I Scroll

Cast a level 1 Group Haste spell

'Why is there no explanation on the spell? How do I know how useful the spells in the scrolls are?' Jack asked Peniel in his mind. She had gone back to her hidden dimension ever since they came out of the Hunters Association building.

"The spells in the scrolls are mostly common spells from the Advanced and Elite classes, people who buy these scrolls are expected to understand the spells. People can also brush up on their knowledge in the library if they want to know each spell's function."

'Luckily I have you then,' Jack said with a grin.

"You are indeed lucky," Peniel replied with pride. "You better not forget about it."

'I see the scrolls had different colors, some had blue color and the others are red.'

"Yes, the blue color is for one containing advanced spell, while red indicates elite spell."

'So what do you propose me to buy first?' He asked.

"I propose you get some fundamental spells that can help you in various situations. First of all, ask for some Town Return scrolls."

'What does it do?'

"It teleports you back to the nearest town when you are in the wilderness."

'Really? Why didn't you ask me to get such useful items before? It would save me time on traveling.'

"Because you were not so loaded before."

'Are they expensive?' Jack looked at the price tag on the scrolls after Peniel's comment.

"Shit! Why are they so expensive?" Jack exclaimed out loud after seeing the prices. The Fireball I scroll cost 50 silver coins, the Lightning Strike III scroll cost 52 silver coins, the Magic Bind I scroll cost 40 silver coins. Just buying two of them would have needed him to spend 1 gold coin, it was very extravagant.

'We have an artisan job of Scroll-making right? If I focus on this job instead of blacksmithing or cooking, won't I get rich by selling the scrolls I make?'

"Are you seriously so naïve?" Peniel said, "the materials you need in order to make a scroll are also expensive, and they are also very time-consuming with a higher chance of failure compare to blacksmithing job. This shop should have the basic materials, you can buy them and try the job if you want."

'I think not... I prefer fighting monsters and increasing my class level compared to these side jobs.'

Jack walked to a large counter where there was a storekeeper.

"Anything I can help you with, good Sir?" The storekeeper asked politely.

"I'm looking for Town Return scrolls," Jack said.

"Certainly, sir. How many would you like?"

"How much does it cost?"

"10 silver each, sir."

That was rather cheap, if comparing it with the other scrolls, of course, Jack thought.

"Of course they are, they are the most basic of magic scrolls," Peniel told him when he read his thought.

"I would like ten then," Jack answered the storekeeper.

When the storekeeper was away to take the Town Return scrolls, Jack inspected the merchandise on the large counter. There were empty scrolls, inks of different grades, and magic stones of different grades.

'These are the materials for creating magic scrolls?' Jack asked Peniel.

"Yep," she answered.

'How do you make a magic scroll?'

"Similar to the other artisan jobs, you need a base device. In the case of Scroll-making, you need a Writing Apparatus. Then you can use these materials to make a scroll. However, different from the other jobs, scroll-making was special as it had two methods to make a scroll."

'Two methods?'

"Yes. The first is the most commonly applied, which is copying. You use the material to copy another existing scroll, meaning you need to have at least one scroll of a particular spell you want to copy. The second method is by employing the help of a magic-user class who had learned the particular spell you want to imbue into the scroll. Meaning you have to find such a magic-user who is willing to cooperate with you."

'My second class is a magic-user class, can I imbue my own spell into a scroll if I choose to do the scroll-making?'

"You can," Peniel answered. "However, the difficulty will be slightly higher as you need to do the casting while imbuing the magic effect into the scroll at the same time. The probability of failure will also become higher."

The storekeeper came back at this time and handed the ten scrolls to Jack. Jack paid him one gold coin. When this gold coin left his hand, he no longer considered the Town Return scroll as cheap.

"That Magic Bind scroll you saw just now was also a useful spell," Peniel said. "It can bind a target and prevent it from moving for a short period of time. It was actually a spell that you will learn when you reach level 25 of the Mage class. But you are obviously still a long way from it, so I suggest you buy some first in case you need the spell."

'Any other spells you recommend? Their prices are high, so I will consider buying that Magic Bind scroll after you listed out the other spells.'

"Apart from that Magic Bind scroll, I suggest you also get scroll with movement spell, healing, defensive spell, and offensive spell. At least one of each."

Jack asked the storekeeper which shelves he could find such scrolls on. The storekeeper happily brought him around the shop so he could browse through the said scrolls. When he was touring, he noticed a stair that went up to the second floor. He then remembered the shop did have a second floor looking from the façade outside.

He asked the storekeeper, "Are there more magic scrolls that are on sale upstairs?"

"There are," the storekeeper answered. "However, the second floor is only reserved for nobles or those that had reached a VIP status in our store."

"Oh? What kind of scroll was on sale up there?"

"Scrolls which mostly contains high-level spells from Elite magical classes. There are also scrolls containing exclusive spells that are not common to public classes."

"That's interesting, and how do I get the VIP status?"

"Once you have spent sufficient enough coins in this shop, you will automatically be granted the status."

"How much is the amount to be considered have spent sufficient enough coins?"

"one hundred gold coins."

"... okay, let's just browse the scrolls on this floor."

After doing one round of browsing, Jack brought some scrolls to the counter. He had taken two Magic Bind I scrolls, one Fireball I scroll which Peniel explained was a single target high damage spell with fire element. One Chain lightning I scroll which was an offensive group target spell, two Magic Wall I scrolls which were a defensive spell, two Wind Jet I scrolls which held movement spell, and two Heal I scrolls.

The total of those scrolls costed him 4 gold coins and 80 silver coins. He would be lying if he said he did not feel any heartache when he paid those coins. These magic scrolls were simply too expensive! Especially the Chain lightning scroll, it alone had already cost 1 gold coin. He stored those scrolls inside his inventory bag.

"Only use them in an emergency," Peniel advised him.

'That is something that need not be told, considering the number of coins I spent on them,' Jack replied.

"What else do you want to do now?" Peniel asked. "Do you want to apply for Mage advanced class now?"

'No, I'm tired. Let's call it a day. I want to go back and combine the equipment I just bought today. We will deal with the Mage class tomorrow morning.'

"That is wise, you will need sheer concentration on the Mage class trial tomorrow," Peniel said.

'Concentration? Is the trial of Mage class different from the Warrior class?'

"Of course they are different! What do you expect, one is a physical class while the other is a magical class."

'What will the test be?'

"You will find out tomorrow."

'Wait, no hint at all?'

"No cheating," Peniel said.

Chapter 140: Overall Upgrade

Jack walked back directly to Amy's Bakery after coming out of the magic scroll shop. The sun had already set. Many shops had started to close at this time. When Jack arrived at Amy's Bakery, she and her mom had just finished closing up the shop. Jack joined them for dinner before retiring to his room.

The first thing that Jack did after being alone in his room was taking out the two one-handed swords he had gotten from Warpath, one was a level 15 rare sword while the other was an uncommon level 14 sword. Jack then took out his Storm Breaker and proceeded to let it consume the rare sword. Since both were rare grades, his Storm Breaker immediately jumped to the same level as the consumed sword. And

with the additional experiences from previously sacrificed swords, the experience on Storm Breaker was actually just a hairbreadth away from level 16.

When he let it consume the uncommon level 14 sword, the experience it granted pushed Storm Breaker past level 16. He also changed one of the weapon skills to the newly acquired ability which increased his Parry skill level.

Storm Breaker, level: 16 (rare one-handed sword, bound weapon)

Physical damage: 74

Attack speed 3

Dexterity +2

Parry skill +2

Cannot be destroyed

Bound to Storm Wind

Overlimit: Release the weapon's hidden power that adds additional 150% damage as chaos damage, increase weapon range by 2 feet, and decrease the target's defense by 65%. Duration 85 seconds.

Cooldown 8 hours

After finished dealing with his main weapon, he took out his sub-weapon. He had bought twelve common magic staffs. He used the Transformation Box and combined them into three uncommon magic staffs. With the other five uncommon magic staffs he had already possessed, he now had enough to combine them into a rare grade magic staff.

Without further ado, he threw them all into the Transformation Box. Not long after, the Box spewed out a unique-looking staff. All the magic staffs he had gotten before had the appearance of being made from either wood or stone with irregular shapes. The one in his hand now was straight shape from metallic material with an intricate head design. There was a crimson color orb attached to its head. Jack inspected the impressive-looking staff.

Red Dawn Staff, level: 21/40 (rare magic weapon)

Magical damage: 68

Range: 10 meters

Attack speed 1

Energy: 80

Intelligence +3

All spells' range +2 meters

Another good thing about fusing those weapons was, the transformed weapon was following the highest level amongst the consumed weapons. So this new magic staff was already level 21, he did not need to waste time and material to upgrade again.

The energy of the staff had increased after it reached rare grade. It lost the previous ability to replenish its energy but its new ability to increase spells' range was very useful as well. He just needed to take note to stock on magic stone to replenish the staff's standard range attack ammo from now on.

After finished upgrading both his weapons, he now proceeded to combine all the spare medium armor equipment he had gotten previously, together with the ones he had just bought at the shop today. After the combinations, he got one uncommon grade medium armor for each chest piece, shoulder piece, belt, and boots. The chest and shoulder pieces were inferior to his currently equipped ones, so he just stored them in his inventory bag, while he equipped the new belt and boots.

Apothecary Fauld, level: 15/25 (uncommon medium armor)

Physical defense: 20

Magical defense: 16

Durability 30

Recovery potion effect +30%

Responsive Leggings, level: 15/25 (uncommon medium armor)

Physical defense: 22

Magical defense: 18

Durability: 40

Reflex +2

After exchanging the two pieces, finally the lowest grade equipped on his body was uncommon. He checked the total defense from all the armors.

Physical Defense: 190

Magical Defense: 166

Quite a decent defense he got here, Jack thought while admiring his stats window. With these weapon and armor upgrades, his battle capability should have increased another grade. If he succeeded in getting his Mage advance class tomorrow, he should be able to tackle the high-level quests from the silver hall of Adventurers Association. He could not deny he was rather looking forwards to it.

There was one last thing to do before he called it a day. He took out the Technique Book: Dragon's Eye, which he had gotten from the silver hall Hunters Association today. He interacted with the book and a prompt appeared that asking him if he wished to learn the skill. He accepted it. A notification soon informed him that he had learned the skill. He opened up his skill window to check on it.

Dragon's Eye (Special skill)

Passive Effect: Enhances vision to see more details and longer distance by an additional 50%, can see clearly in the dark.

Active Skill: Trigger slowdown vision, all object movements are slowed by 500%, Duration: 10 seconds, Cooldown: 1 hour

The skill was similar to his Life Burning Art which did not have a skill level, meaning it was already at its strongest state. That was good also, Jack thought, so he could just focus his skill points on other skills. But it had ten stars proficiency level same as other skills, though. So the skill can still be improved by continuously using it.

After reading the skill's full ability, Jack finally understood why Peniel regarded this skill so highly. The skill possessed both passive ability and active one. Its active skill was especially amazing. The difference between a normal expert with a martial art top expert aside from their body control, was their response time. With an active skill that enabled him to see movements slower than five times its normal speed, it would allow him to have a response time equal to or even better than the top martial art experts. As an attack that took 1 second to reach him would now take 5 seconds in his perspective. He would have more time to respond and devise a counterattack. Even though the active skill only lasted ten short seconds, a lot could be done within these ten seconds.

This was truly a good skill. Now even if he met an opponent at the level of Red Death, he would not necessarily be compelled to brute force his way using his massive stats advantage.

Satisfied with today's harvest, he finally called it a day. He lied on his bed and allowed his fatigue to take over.

The next morning, Jack woke quite late despite sleeping early, the build-up fatigue must have exceeded his expectation. When he went downstairs, Amy and Samantha were already busy working in their shop. Some of the customers in the shop were players like him apart from NPCs. These players were rather surprised when they saw another player came out from inside the private quarter of the shop, they were wondering if it was possible for them to go in as well. One actually tried, before getting scolded by Samantha. Jack just chuckled when he witnessed it.

The appearance of players must have increased the shop's revenue, as Jack remembered the shop was not so popular when he first visited the shop. Come to think of it, players would prefer the food in this shop which majority consisted of bread, sandwich, and cake. These foods they could take with them on the road and could easily be consumed on the move. Their effects were also quite good, there were many different effects that could be used in different kinds of situations.

Looking at the booming shop, Jack was reminded of the Invest function. If not wrong, the first investment option required 50 gold coins, which he currently had.

'Peniel, you did mention before that investing in a shop is one of the good ways to earn coins, didn't you?' He asked in his mind.

"I did say that," Peniel confirmed.

'How much can I earn if I invest?'

"That will depend on the shop's popularity and your status with the shop. If the shop is booming with sales, then you will get more. Basically you start as an investor, which will grant you 10% of the shop's profit. When you invest the second time, you will become a partner, and 30% of the profit. The last

investment option will make you an owner, which gives you 50% of the profit. You can cash in the profit weekly."