Reincarnated as a Castle - (LitRPG, Kingdom Building, Progression)

Chapter 101 - 2 versus 2

"Shit..."

Gopuro instinctively took a step backward, sweat rolling down his face and dripping onto the ground.

Gopuran wasn't doing much better. She tightened her grip on her sword, staring at the monsters before them. Her arms were trembling slightly, despite her best efforts to keep them steady.

They had only barely managed to kill that first Dark Giant Spider by working together.

And now...

There were two more.

Each Dark Giant Spider stood roughly twice as tall as my goblins, with enormous black bodies and razor-sharp legs that could probably impale one of them with a single successful strike.

But then, Gopuro suddenly threw back his head and roared.

"RAAAAAAARRRR! BRING IT ON!!!"

Without waiting another second, he charged straight toward one of the spiders, gripping his massive axe with both hands!

"I'M TAKING THIS ONE!" he shouted. "THAT ONE'S YOURS!"

"YAH!"

Gopuran immediately dashed toward the other spider, drawing her sword as she moved.

And just like that, both goblins rushed into battle!

...

At that moment, I finally understood the meaning of a certain saying.

Courage isn’t the absence of fear, but the triumph over it.

My goblins were obviously still afraid.

I could see it in their trembling hands, the sweat running down their faces, and the tension in their movements.

And this wasn’t some negative status effect imposed by the spiders’ fear aura, either. Their minds were clear, and [Blessing of Protection] was still active.

No, this was something more primal.

The fear of death.

The fear of pain.

The fear of facing an enemy that might be stronger than themselves.

They were afraid because they understood the danger they were in.

And yet... they chose to fight anyway.

And that’s true courage.

CLANG!!!

Gopuro’s axe collided with one of the spider’s front legs, producing a sharp metallic clang.

The spider had managed to block his attack!

Before Gopuro could follow up, another bladed leg swept toward him, aiming straight for his torso.

Fortunately, Gopuro was quick on his feet.

He leaped backward, narrowly avoiding the deadly strike as the spider’s leg sliced through the air where he’d been standing a moment earlier.

WOOSH!

That was close!

However, the spider didn’t give him much breathing room.

Its remaining legs shifted rapidly to maintain its balance before it launched another attack.

Gopuro gritted his teeth and raised his axe, searching for an opening.

Meanwhile...

Gopuran was having her own problems.

She relied on her speed and agility to maneuver around her opponent, darting from one side to the other in search of an opportunity to strike.

Unfortunately, this spider was surprisingly fast, too.

The moment Gopuran tried to close the distance, the enemy's sharp legs thrust toward her in rapid succession, attempting to skewer her on the spot!

WOOSH! WOOSH!!

Gopuran twisted her body, dodging the incoming attacks one after another.

But with so many attacks striking from different angles, she couldn't find a safe opportunity to counterattack.

Eventually, she was forced to retreat several steps.

"Tch!"

She clicked her tongue in frustration, her eyes never leaving the spider.

Meanwhile, I watched the battle, growing more restless and worrying by the seconds.

Hmm...

This isn't good...

This isn't good at all!

These monsters had both incredibly high defense and powerful attacks. Their bodies were tough, their legs were deadly, and their movements were surprisingly quick.

My goblins had managed to kill the first spider because they'd worked together flawlessly to trick it.

But now, things were different.

The remaining two spiders were fully aware of their opponents, and they weren't about to let my goblins land another easy hit.

At this rate, there was no way Gopuro and Gopuran could defeat these two on their own. Not without taking some serious risks, anyway.

I already knew that we need a different approach...

But what?

What could we do now that there were two spiders?

I watched the two battles unfold, desperately trying to think of something.

Just then, suddenly, Gopuran's voice rang out through our connection.

"Big Boss! I have an idea!!!"

"Yes? I'm listening!"

She swiftly dodged another attack, ducking beneath a blade-like leg before darting away to safety.

Then she quickly explained her plan to me.

I listened, considering it for a moment.

...Hmm.

This would require an almost flawless level of execution and coordination...

But since I could communicate with both of them in real time and give them signals, it might actually be possible.

Still, it was risky. Very risky, actually.

But given our current situation, I wasn't sure we had a better option.

"You think it'll work?" Gopuran asked.

"Well, let's give it a try!"

*****

And so, I relayed the plan to Gopuro as well.

The moment he understood what I had in mind, he nodded without hesitation.

Rather than trying to attack the spider head-on, he shifted to a defensive approach, focusing entirely on dodging its deadly legs while keeping his distance.

WHOOSH! WHOOSH! WHOOSH!

CLANG! CLANG!

The spider's blade-like legs stabbed toward him one after another. Whenever Gopuro managed to block a strike with his axe, the impact sent sparks flying.

Still, the guy was surprisingly nimble.

He twisted aside, ducked beneath another strike, then hurried backward just as a sharp leg stabbed into the ground where he'd been standing.

Rather than counterattacking, he kept moving.

And the spider followed.

Meanwhile, Gopuran was doing much the same thing with her own opponent.

She darted from side to side, occasionally rushing forward just enough to provoke an attack before quickly retreating. Her sword remained raised defensively, and she never stayed in one place for more than a moment.

At first glance, it probably looked as though my goblins were running around aimlessly.

But that wasn't the case at all!

They were deliberately manipulating their opponents' movements, trying to make both spiders focus entirely on them while gradually drawing the monsters closer together.

It was a dangerous strategy, though. One wrong step, and either goblin could end up skewered by one of those blade-like legs.

Still, the two of them were executing the plan surprisingly well.

Step by step, the distance between the two battles grew smaller.

One spider lunged at Gopuro, forcing him to leap sideways to avoid being impaled. The other chased Gopuran as she slipped past its front legs and circled around its flank.

Then, just as the spiders prepared to attack again, Gopuro deliberately retreated toward Gopuran.

She noticed immediately and dashed in the opposite direction, drawing her pursuer along with her.

And before either monster realized what was happening...

The two enormous creatures were almost standing side by side!

Perfect!

Home Reincarnated as a Castle - (LitRPG, Kingdom Building, Progression) Chapter 102: Whirling Flame!

Reincarnated as a Castle - (LitRPG, Kingdom Building, Progression)

The two enormous creatures were almost standing side by side!

Perfect!

"NOW! YOU TWO!"

Gopuro and Gopuran exchanged a quick glance and nodded.

Then both goblins moved at once!

Gopuro suddenly planted his feet and swung his massive axe toward the spider chasing him.

"TAKE THIS!"

The spider reacted instinctively, thrusting one of its front legs sideward to intercept the blow.

At almost the same instant, Gopuran darted past her own opponent.

She deliberately cut close to its front legs, provoking the spider into turning its body abruptly and launching another furious counterattack side way!

SHING!

The long blade-like leg stabbed toward her, moving like an enormous reaper’s scythes!

But Gopuran already ducked and narrowly slipped past the second. Thus, second attack wasn’t aimed at her anymore.

It was heading straight toward the other spider!

KRRRSHHHH!!!

The two monsters collided in a horrifying tangle of black limbs!

One of the incoming blades plunged into the side of the other spider's body, while another scraped across its eyes. Black blood burst from the wounds, splattering across the ground.

KIEEEEEEEEK!

Both spiders shrieked in pain and fury.

Their crimson eyes flared as they scrambled to regain their balance.

HAHA! IT WORKS!

Who the hell needs fancy skills when we can use the enemy's own weapons against them?!

GOPURAN, YOU'RE A GENIUS!

Unfortunately for the two monsters, with so many legs flailing around, it didn't take long for them to become tangled with each other. One spider's leg caught beneath the other's body, causing both creatures to stumble.

They tried to separate, but their frantic movements only made things worse.

One attempted to climb over its opponent, while the other pushed back with its remaining legs.

For a brief moment, the two gigantic monsters looked like a pair of oversized insects desperately wrestling over the same patch of ground.

And right now, they were struggling just to get back on their feet.

NOW'S OUR CHANCE!

I wasn't about to let such a golden opportunity slip away!

"GOPURO!"

"ON MY WAY!!!"

Gopuro immediately charged forward, gripping his massive two-handed axe with both hands.

Then he jumped!

His feet left the ground as he raised his weapon high above his head, his eyes burning with determination.

And then...

FWOOSH!!!

His axe suddenly burst into flames!

Blazing fire wrapped around the enormous blade, growing brighter and hotter until the entire weapon shone like a miniature sun. The surrounding air shimmered from the intense heat.

Oh, shit!

HERE IT COMES!

GOPURO’S NEW SKILL!!!

"AAARRRGHHH! WHIRLING FLAMEEEE!!!"

Gopuro swung his axe downward with all his might!

FWOOOOOOOOOM!!!

A gigantic wheel of fire erupted from the weapon, spinning violently as it tore through the air. Flames licked across the ground as the blazing wheel raced toward its targets.

The first spider reacted immediately.

KIEEEEEEEEK!

It raised both front legs and crossed their blade-like edges in front of its body, desperately trying to block the incoming attack.

But...

It was just a futile effort.

The wheel of flame struck!

For the briefest moment, the spider’s bladed legs held firm against the blazing attack. Sparks flew as metal-hard chitin clashed with the spinning inferno.

Then, just a fraction of a second later...

The flames broke through!

KRRRRRAAAAAASH!!!

The spinning wheel sliced through the spider's defenses, burning through its black chitin and carving straight into its body!

And just like that, its enormous frame was nearly bisected by the devastating strike!

But the attack didn't stop there.

The wheel of flame had already torn through the first spider, yet it still retained enough momentum to keep spinning forward.

And directly behind the first monster...

Was the second spider!

FWWWWOOOOOOOM!!!

The blazing wheel slammed into the second spider before it could even escape!

Its front legs were swept aside as the fiery attack carved through its body, cutting through its tough exoskeleton as though it were little more than paper.

Then the flames erupted from the wound, engulfing the monster in a burst of scorching fire!

BOOOOOOM!!!

The entire clearing lit up!

For a moment, all I could see was a brilliant wheel of fire tearing through the darkness, leaving a trail of burning embers and thick black smoke in its wake.

*****

HOLY. FUCKING. SHIT!!!

WHAT THE HECK WAS THAT?!

I stared at the two burning spider corpses in front of me, both of them sliced clean through by a single attack.

ONE ATTACK?! DOUBLE KILL?!

HE JUST KILLED BOTH OF THEM WITH ONE ATTACK?!

I knew [Whirling Flame Lv. 1] was powerful, but I hadn't expected it to be THIS powerful!

So this is the true might of a magical D-tier weapon?

Damn!

That 2000-Points weapon was worth every single penny!

Meanwhile, Gopuro landed on the ground, breathing heavily. That one attack had apparently drained his mana completely.

The guy immediately popped a powerstone into his mouth.

Well, aside from providing EXP, these stones could apparently restore a small amount of mana, too. Not much, from what I'd seen, but every little bit helped.

Anyway, Gopuro looked just as stunned as I felt.

"Holy hell..." He stared at his axe, then at the two charred spiders. "Did I... really do that?"

He looked like he couldn't quite believe his own eyes.

And honestly, I couldn't blame him.

Meanwhile, Gopuran stood there in silence too, staring at her big brother with a bright, slightly unhinged smile.

Yeah...

We did it.

Against all odds, we'd managed to kill not one, not two, but three.

THREE!

THREE GIANT SPIDERS!!!

...

...

Still...

Krrt... krrt...

That sound again.

Krrt krrt...

More clicking echoed from the direction of the Cursed Land, and it was getting closer.

The familiar, horrible clicking sounds were growing louder by the second.

"Hey, Puro, Puran. Can you two still fight?" I asked through our connection.

Obviously, there were more spiders coming our way.

"Of course!" Gopuro answered immediately.

"Hell yeah!" Gopuran added, raising her sword.

Their confidence was understandable. After all, they'd just witnessed what [Whirling Flame Lv. 1] could do.

Gopuro's mana was completely depleted, sure, but Gopuran could still use the skill if she had enough mana left.

With another Whirling Flame, we might be able to take down two more spiders. Maybe even three, depending on how they lined up.

Yeah, we might actually be able to pull this off!

The two goblins turned toward the Cursed Land, their expressions full of confidence.

However...

The ground trembled so violently now.

Then, they arrived.

And this time... it wasn't one spider.

It wasn't two.

It wasn't even three.

FIVE DARK GIANT SPIDERS burst out of the mist at once!

"What?!" Gopuro exclaimed in shock.

And before either goblin could react, the monsters spotted them and immediately leaped forward!

Forty ominous crimson eyes glared through the darkness.

Ten pairs of scythe-like legs flashed in the air, each one ready to tear through whatever stood in their way!

Oh fuck...

We’re screwed.

....

"B-B-Big Boss...?" Gopuro stammered.

The confident smile he’d been wearing moments ago twisted into an expression of pure horror.

Gopuran raised her sword, trying to assume a defensive stance, but even she looked pale. Her eyes followed the incoming monsters, and for once, she seemed to have absolutely no idea what to do.

But just as the spiders descended upon my goblins...

A furious roar suddenly tore through the clearing!

"AAARRRRGGHHHHHH! SHIELD CHARGE!!!!"

A gigantic, bald silhouette suddenly appeared between Gopuro, Gopuran, and the incoming spiders!

The enormous figure charged forward, his massive shield raised in front of him.

He slammed straight into the spiders’ attacks, blocking their deadly legs with a deafening crash!

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Chapter 103: Castle goblins assemble!

It was Gopugiga!!!

The giant dude had arrived just in time, planted his feet firmly on the ground and raised his massive shield, meeting the incoming blade-like legs head-on.

CLAAAAANG!!!

The impact was tremendous!

Even so, Gopugiga managed to hold his ground for a brief moment before unleashing all his strength.

"GRRRRAAAAHHH!!!"

BOOOOM!!!

The force of his Shield Charge sent the spiders stumbling backward several steps!

Of course, Gopugiga wasn't completely unaffected, either.

His enormous body was pushed backward as well, his boots scraping against the ground. His arms trembled from the impact, and he had to dig his feet into the earth to keep himself from being thrown off balance.

HOLY SHIT!

THAT WAS CLOSE!

If he'd arrived even a second later, my two dear Gopuro and Gopuran would've become spider food!

Just then...

"POWER SHOT!"

A voice rang out from behind!

FWIP!

An arrow zipped through the air and struck one of the spiders directly in the eye!

Blood spurted from the wound as the arrow sank halfway into its eye socket.

KIEEEEEEEEK!

The monster recoiled violently, letting out a piercing screech as it jerked its head backward.

Gopuro immediately turned around.

And there, standing a short distance away with her bow drawn, was Gopuberry!

The blue-haired goblin girl was already preparing another arrow. Her eyes remained fixed on the spiders as she searched for her next target.

FWIP!

Another Power Shot!

Another spider took a direct hit and stumbled backward.

"Nice shooting, Berry!"

Meanwhile, the others were rushing into the battle as well! Gopuflammy and Gopushadow arrived from behind, ready to join the fight. Within moments, our entire team of six goblins had gathered together again!

Their faces were a little pale from all the blood they'd lost during the ritual, and some were still breathing heavily. They clearly weren't in the best condition.

But they were standing together now, and they could still fight.

At least we weren't facing this nightmare with only two goblins anymore.

However, just as I was starting to feel a little relieved, Gopugiga suddenly asked.

"Ermm... Big Boss?"

His voice was trembling, and so were his legs.

"Can you... please give me that protection, too?"

...

OH, SHIT! RIGHT!

I'd been so focused on the battle that I'd almost forgotten about him!

The spiders' fear aura was still a serious threat. Without protection, there was no way my goblins could keep fighting effectively against those monsters.

The reason Gopugiga had managed to block their attacks was that he'd activated Shield Charge from outside the aura's range and rushed straight in. He'd been able to make that one move, but staying here without protection was another matter entirely.

I immediately activated my skill.

"[Blessing of Protection], ACTIVATE!"

A golden glow descended upon my remaining four goblins, enveloping their bodies in warm, radiant light.

With the blessing in place, they could finally face the spiders without being overwhelmed by their terrifying aura.

Gopugiga rolled his shoulders, Gopuro raised his flaming axe, while Gopuran lowered her stance.

Gopuflammy gripped her massive hammer with both hands, and Gopushadow silently slipped into position.

Even Gopuberry, standing farther away from the others, looked considerably more confident as she drew another arrow.

Alright! Now we're talking!

Castle Tribe warriors, assemble!

Unfortunately...

Things were about to get a whole lot worse.

....

The ground trembled again.

From the darkness beyond the clearing, more enormous shadows began to emerge.

One...

Two...

Three...

They just kept coming!

I hurriedly counted the monsters approaching us.

Five spiders had already appeared.

Then seven.

Then ten.

And before long...

TWELVE DARK GIANT SPIDERS!

Twelve of those horrifying monsters were now charging straight toward my goblins!

And there were only six of us!

Two versus two had already been a close fight. And now... it was six against twelve?

Not to mention, more spiders probably gonna appear soon.

I really didn't want to admit it, but our odds now seemed terrible.

Worse still, maintaining [Blessing of Protection] on all six goblins was draining my Castle Points at an alarming rate. I couldn't afford to keep the blessing active throughout a prolonged battle.

We needed to find a chance to retreat. Soon.

Still, before we could escape, we needed to buy enough time for everyone else to get away safely!

I immediately turned my attention toward Gopuberry.

"Berry!" I commanded. "Tell the others to run! Hurry! We'll hold these monsters off for as long as we can!"

"YES, BIG BOSS!"

Gopuberry immediately turned and relayed my message to the elderly shaman, who had just finished his healing spell.

The shaman's expression tightened as he looked toward the approaching spiders.

"Alright!" he shouted, turning to the remaining members of his tribe. "You heard her! Everyone, move! Run as fast as you can!"

The goblins didn’t hesitate.

Those who could still walk helped the more severely injured survivors to their feet, while others supported their wounded companions and hurried away from the clearing.

Within moments, the entire group was scrambling toward safety.

Of course, Gopuberry had already told them which direction to take so they could reach my castle.

Meanwhile, the Sacred Blood Transfusion had stopped, which meant the ritual had succeeded. The chieftain’s HP should have recovered to fifty percent of his maximum.

There was just one problem.

The giant Hulgagoblin remained unconscious, his massive body still lying motionless inside the ritual circle for some reason.

"Berry!" I called out. "Ask the shaman how long it’ll take for the chieftain to wake up!"

Gopuberry quickly passed along my question.

The shaman glanced at the unconscious chieftain before answering.

"Just give me half a minute!" he shouted.

Thirty seconds, huh?

That was going to be tough.

But... if it was my goblins, then I believed they could pull it off!

I shifted my view back toward the twelve Dark Giant Spiders rushing toward us.

Their crimson eyes glowed like the eyes of demons, while their countless legs scraped against the ground with a horrible, bone-chilling sound.

Twelve enemies.

Six goblins.

A dwindling supply of Castle Points.

And thirty seconds to buy.

Well...

I didn’t have much of a choice, did I?

"GUYS!" I shouted. "LET’S SHOW THESE BASTARDS WHAT WE’VE GOT!"

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REINCARNATED AS A CASTLE - (LITRPG, KINGDOM BUILDING, PROGRESSION)

Chapter 104: Together!

And so, the battle began!

The twelve Dark Giant Spiders rushed toward us, their massive black bodies making them look like twelve walking patches of hairy darkness, each with four pairs of glowing crimson eyes.

KIEEEEEEEEK!

Their shrill screeches echoed throughout the clearing.

"RAAAAAAH!"

Gopuro charged forward to meet them, but this time, he wasn’t wielding his massive two-handed axe.

Instead, he carried a one-handed sword.

Meanwhile, Gopuran had taken possession of the Blazing SkullCleaver. Since Gopuro had already exhausted his mana using [Whirling Flame], it’s time for her to weild his monster of a weapon.

And against twelve of these monsters, we needed every advantage we could get.

CLANG! CLANG! CLANG!

Gopuro weaved between the spiders' attacks, using his sword to parry their blade-like legs whenever he couldn't dodge in time. He was clearly being cautious, never lingering in one place long enough for the monsters to surround him.

Still, even his agility had its limits.

Two enormous legs suddenly thrust toward him from the side, aiming to skewer him before he could react!

Fortunately, Gopugiga was already there.

CLAAAAANG!!!

The giant goblin stepped between Gopuro and the incoming attack, intercepting both legs with his massive shield.

"GRRRRAAAAHHH!"

He drove his shield forward with all his strength!

The impact sent one of the spiders stumbling backward, its legs scraping furrows into the ground as it struggled to regain its balance.

And right at that moment...

"POWER SHOT!"

FWIP!

An arrow zipped past Gopugiga's shoulder and flew straight toward the staggering spider's head!

It struck directly in the eye, sinking deep into the monster's socket.

KIEEEEEEEEK!

The spider recoiled in agony, jerking its head backward as black blood sprayed from the wound.

But Gopuberry wasn't finished.

She had already drawn another arrow. Before the injured spider could recover, she released it!

FWIP!

The second arrow struck right in the middle of its mouth!

The monster staggered again, its front legs flailing as it struggled to orient itself.

And that was all Gopuran needed!

The goblin girl immediately rushed forward, gripping the Blazing SkullCleaver with both hands. Her eyes practically sparkled with excitement.

"EAT THIS YOU BASTARDS! WHIRLING FLAME!!!"

FWOOM!!!

The Blazing SkullCleaver erupted in scorching flames!

Gopuran swung the enormous axe, unleashing a blazing wheel that tore through the air toward the wounded spider!

The monster desperately raised its front legs to defend itself.

Too late!

KRRRAAAAAASH!!!

The fiery wheel tore through its defenses and carved straight through its body!

Flames burst from the wound, engulfing the spider as its enormous frame split apart.

The burning remains crashed to the ground.

But the attack didn’t stop there.

The wheel of fire clipped the spider behind it, tearing through two of its legs before continuing onward. The second monster shrieked and stumbled sideways, its balance suddenly thrown off.

GOOD!

That’s one down, and one badly injured!

Unfortunately, there was barely any time to celebrate.

Three more spiders immediately turned toward Gopuran and rushed her from different directions!

"Puran! Watch out!" I shouted.

But she already reacted and retreated, keeping the massive axe between herself and the monsters. Its long reach gave her a little breathing room, but the spiders were fast, and they weren't about to let her escape so easily.

One lunged at her from the front.

Gopuran twisted aside.

Another blade-like leg came sweeping in from her left!

CLANG!

She caught the attack with the shaft of her axe, but the impact rattled her arms and forced her several steps backward.

She was going to be surrounded.

Fortunately, Gopugiga and Gopuro rushed in to help, each intercepting one of the spiders before they could close in on her.

That left the third monster momentarily exposed.

Just then...

A slender figure darted past the others.

And it was Gopushadow!

The white-haired goblin moved with astonishing speed! He slashed at the spider's head, forcing it to go back to defend, before quickly moved, slipping between the spider's legs before it could react. Within moments, he had appeared behind the monster, his daggers already flashing toward its exposed abdomen!

SLASH! SLASH! SLASH! SLASH!

His attacks landed in rapid succession!

At first, the cuts were relatively shallow. But with each successive strike, a faint white glow grew brighter around his weapons, and the cuts were a bit deeper now.

The spider twisted around, trying to locate its attacker.

Too slow!

Gopushadow had already slipped away, reappearing behind it to strike again!

SLASH! SLASH! SLASH! SLASH!

The glow around his daggers intensified with every hit!

Right! It’s that skill!

[Fury Strike Lv. 1]

Each successful attack applied a debuff that increased the damage dealt by his next attack against the same target. The effect stacked up to ten times, with each stack increasing the damage by 10%.

The catch was that the accumulated bonus would disappear if he failed to attack the target again within five seconds.

....

In other words, he had to keep up the pressure.

And Gopushadow was doing exactly that!

He attacked so quickly that the spider barely had time to react. His arms were blurry, his daggers flashed again and again.

And just five seconds... that was all it took for him to unleash more than forty attacks!

And then...

... when he finally reached his fiftieth strike...

SHING!!!

His dagger plunged into a weakened section of the spider’s abdomen. The accumulated damage proved too much for its already body!

SPLOOOOSH!!!

The spider’s abdomen suddenly burst open, showering the ground with black blood!

The monster staggered violently, its legs buckling beneath its enormous body before it collapsed.

...

HOLY CRAP!

THAT’S TWO DOWN!

Gopushadow didn’t even stop to admire his work though.

He sprang away from the falling spider, dodged a desperate swipe from another monster, and darted toward his next target.

Seriously, how could someone move that fast? With two shining daggers, this guy was like a freaking blender!

And then, as I watched him zip between the monsters, an idea suddenly came to me.

Wait a minute...

He’s fast enough to move between these things without getting caught. If we use that speed properly, we might be able to control the entire battlefield!

"Shadow!" I immediately called out through our connection. "Can you draw the attention of as many spiders as possible?"

"Yes! Leave it to me!"

Use arrow keys (or A / D) to PREV/NEXT chapter

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Chapter 105: A blazing cleave!

Without hesitation, Gopushadow sprang into action!

He darted toward one spider, slashed at its leg, then immediately changed direction and struck another. He never stayed in one place long enough to get pinned down, but he made sure every monster he attacked noticed him.

And, naturally, the spiders took the bait.

One good thing about these monsters was that they didn’t seem particularly intelligent. Or perhaps their killing instincts were simply stronger than whatever reasoning ability they had.

Despite being fast and deadly, they showed no signs of working together or using any kind of strategy. They just rushed toward their prey and attacked, seemingly without a second thought.

Well, I wasn’t about to complain about that!

One after another, the spiders turned toward the irritating little goblin who kept slashing at them. Before long, five Dark Giant Spiders had abandoned their other targets and begun chasing Gopushadow.

Perfect!

Of course, attracting five giant spiders was one thing.

Surviving them was another.

Gopushadow darted between trees, ducked beneath low branches, and changed direction so abruptly that the enormous monsters struggled to keep up.

Their blade-like legs stabbed into empty space, missing him by mere inches. One spider even slammed into a tree while trying to follow his sudden turn, shaking loose a shower of leaves and broken branches!

CRAAACK!!!

The trunk cracked under the impact.

Gopushadow was already gone.

HAHA!

Keep running, Shadow!

He kept leading them around the clearing for a few more seconds, waiting for the right moment.

Then, when the opportunity finally came...

"SHADOW! BRING THEM OVER HERE!"

"ROGER!"

Gopushadow changed direction and led his five pursuers straight toward the center of the clearing!

At almost the same time, Gopuflammy was busy dealing with two more spiders.

The muscular female goblin swung her enormous hammer, striking one monster's front leg hard enough to make it stagger.

CLANG!!!

The spider shrieked and immediately retaliated.

Gopuflammy ducked beneath the incoming strike, rolled to the side, and swung her hammer into its flank!

BOOOOM!!!

The impact knocked the spider sideways, sending it crashing directly into its companion!

The two monsters stumbled over each other, their legs briefly tangling as they struggled to regain their footing.

Perfect!

Gopuflammy wasn't trying to kill them outright. Not yet, anyway.

She was doing exactly what I'd asked, controlling their movements and forcing them closer together while Gopushadow lured his pursuers toward the same spot.

And all of this was happening while I coordinated their movements through [Ruler's Voice].

Seriously, what a useful ability!

I could communicate with all my goblins instantly, warn them about incoming attacks, and adjust our plan without wasting precious seconds shouting over the noise of battle.

One goblin distracted the enemies.

Another redirected them.

And somewhere nearby, a third had already been waiting for the perfect opportunity to strike.

....

"That’s it! Keep them coming!"

Gradually, the spiders began converging on the center of the clearing.

Gopushadow’s five pursuers rushed in from one side, while Gopuflammy continued provoking her two opponents into following her.

Seven spiders in total!

And soon...

BAM!

They collied onto each other, and were now clustered close enough for a devastating area attack!

Just then, Gopuran rushed past Gopuflammy with perfect timing.

The two goblin girls exchanged a quick glance. Without a word, Gopuran handed over the Blazing SkullCleaver.

Gopuflammy accepted the enormous axe, her thick fingers closing around its handle.

I watched the exchange with bated breath.

Gopuran MP had ran out, so it’s up to Gopuflammy now.

"Flammy, it’s your turn to shine!"

"MWAHAHAHAHA! LEAVE IT TO ME!"

Gopuflammy burst into a maniacal laugh, and the moment she gripped the axe with both hands, something changed!

The Blazing SkullCleaver suddenly glowed brighter than before. The orange markings along its handle began to shine, and streams of fire spread from the weapon, wrapping around Gopuflammy’s arms and body.

Her hair blazed with brilliant fiery light, while strange, flame-like markings spread across her skin. Even her eyes glowed blindingly, radiating an intense, almost frightening power.

FWOOSH!!!

Flames surged along the axe’s blade, burning brighter than ever before!

The air around her shimmered from the heat.

Wait...

What's happening?

Is the weapon reacting differently to her?

I was a little confused, to be honest. The Blazing SkullCleaver hadn't reacted this way when Gopuro or Gopuran used it.

Was there something special about Gopuflammy? Or was this just some kind of weapon effect I'd never noticed before?

Well, whatever it was, there wasn't exactly time to investigate.

Gopuflammy lowered her body and charged straight toward the clustered spiders. Then she leaped into the air, raising the axe high above her head as she let out a tremendous roar!

"GRAAAAAAAAAAHHHH!!! EAT THIS!!!"

For a split second, the seven spiders seemed to notice the enormous weapon blazing above them.

A few tried to turn around.

One raised its front legs.

Another started scrambling backward.

Too late!

"WHIRLING FLAMEEEE!!!"

BOOOOOOOOOOM!!!

Gopuflammy brought the axe crashing down!

The moment the blade struck, a tremendous wheel of fire exploded outward, spinning violently toward the clustered monsters.

The ground shook beneath the impact, and the entire clearing flooded with orange light!

KRRRAAAAAASH!!!

The blazing wheel tore through the spiders' formation, engulfing them in a storm of scorching flames!

Black chitin shattered.

Blade-like legs snapped apart.

Enormous bodies were swept off their feet as the devastating attack carved through their ranks, leaving a blazing trail of destruction in its wake!

KIEEEEEEEEEEEEK!!!

The monsters' shrieks echoed through the clearing as fire consumed their bodies.

Some tried to block the attack with their front legs, while others desperately attempted to scramble out of its path.

It didn't matter.

The wheel of fire swallowed them all!

BOOOOOOM!!!

A final burst of flames erupted across the clearing, sending burning embers and thick black smoke billowing into the air.

For a moment, I could barely see anything.

Then, slowly, the flames began to subside.

The smoke drifted away.

And what remained was...

Seven enormous spider corpses scattered across the clearing, their black exoskeletons charred and broken.

Use arrow keys (or A / D) to PREV/NEXT chapter

Reincarnated as a Castle - (LitRPG, Kingdom Building, Progression)

Holy shit!

I could hardly believe my eyes.

Seven spiders dead in just a single hit?

That’s so freaking op!

But more importantly...

What the hell just happened to Gopuflammy?

For some reason, Gopuflammy seemed considerably more powerful when wielding the Blazing SkullCleaver than Gopuro or Gopuran had been.

And I wasn’t talking about a small difference, either.

The moment she grabbed that axe, her entire body seemed to transform. Her hair glowed like a blazing flame, strange markings spread across her skin, and even her eyes radiated an intense, fiery light. It was like she had unlocked a more powerful transformation or something...

Wait a minute...

Could she have a Fire mana attribute?!

I immediately recalled the weapon’s description.

[Blazing SkullCleaver]

Special Effect: Grants the holder the skill [Whirling Flame Lv. 1]. When wielded by someone with a Fire mana attribute, all damage output increases by 30%!

...

Hahaha! No wonder!

If Gopuflammy really did possess a Fire mana attribute, that would explain why her attack had been so ridiculously powerful.

But it also raised another question.

How the hell am I supposed to tell which mana attribute someone has?

I started thinking about my goblins.

Gopuflammy had red hair and a rather explosive personality. Gopuberry, on the other hand, had blue hair and was a little shy.

Meaning... could hair color be an indicator of someone’s mana attribute?

If so, perhaps Gopuberry had a Water mana attribute!

And what about Gopuro? He had green hair. Maybe he had a Nature attribute?

Hmm...

But then there was Gopugiga.

WAIT A MINUTE!

Could it be that Gopugiga's [Brute Strength] skill suppresses his magical abilities so much that it's made him go bald?!

Kuhahahaha!

...

Okay, that was probably the most ridiculous theory I'd come up with all day.

Still, I couldn't help laughing at the image in my head.

Sorry, Giga. I promise I'll investigate your shiny head properly someday.

Anyway... I had more important things to worry about right now.

Of the original twelve Dark Giant Spiders, nine had already been killed.

That left only three.

And with my goblins working together this well, dealing with the remaining monsters shouldn't be too difficult.

Sure enough, the battle was already turning in our favor.

Gopugiga was holding two spiders back almost entirely by himself. He used his massive shield to block their attacks, occasionally shoving them away whenever they got too close.

CLANG! BOOM! CLANG!

The two monsters desperately tried to get past him, but my best tanker refused to give them an inch.

Meanwhile, my other goblins had surrounded the final spider.

Gopuro attacked from the front, keeping it occupied with quick sword strikes, while Gopuran and Gopuflammy struck from opposite sides. Gopushadow darted in and out of its reach, repeatedly slashing at the same wounds to maximize his damage.

And, of course, Gopuberry kept firing arrows from a safe distance.

FWIP! FWIP!

Each arrow found its mark, further weakening the already injured monster.

It didn't take long for the spider to start falling behind. It could barely keep up with the constant attacks coming from every direction.

KRRRAAASH!

Gopuflammy's hammer smashed into its side, sending the enormous creature crashing to the ground.

Before it could get back up, Gopuro and Gopuran rushed forward and delivered several finishing strikes.

KIEEEEEEEEK!

The spider's legs twitched violently.

Then, at last...

It stopped moving.

"Excellent! Now there are only two left!"

With both remaining spiders already injured, my goblins wasted no time finishing them off.

Gopugiga shoved one backward with his shield, creating just enough space for Gopuflammy to swing her hammer.

BOOOOM!!!

The weapon came crashing down on the spider's head.

Meanwhile, Gopuro and Gopuran worked together against the other monster, dodging its desperate counterattacks before striking at its exposed body.

Slash!

CLANG!

BOOM!

It was over in another ten seconds or so.

Both spiders fell, their enormous bodies hitting the ground with heavy thuds.

...

Alright! We did it!

I was practically ready to celebrate.

Twelve Dark Giant Spiders! My goblins had managed to defeat every single one through teamwork and some surprisingly clever tactics!

Sure, Gopuflammy's ridiculous firepower had played a huge role in our victory, but the others deserved plenty of credit, too. They'd covered one another's weaknesses, adapted to the situation, and made the most of every opening.

Even though this was probably their first time fighting together, everyone had done it so well.

Unfortunately...

My celebration didn't last long.

Because soon...

RUMBLEEEEEEE!!!

The ground suddenly began trembling again.

...

Tch. Seriously?

"Another wave already?" I muttered before quickly issuing another order. "EVERYONE! FALL BACK! REGROUP!"

"YES, BIG BOSS!"

All six goblins responded in unison.

Within moments, they had regrouped and formed a defensive line, their weapons ready.

The rumbling grew louder.

Closer.

Closer...

The sound of countless legs scraping against the ground echoed through the forest, accompanied by the horrible clicking of mandibles.

Krrt... krrt... krrt...

My goblins tightened their grips on their weapons. Sweat covered their faces, and their breathing was heavy.

They'd already spent a considerable amount of mana fighting the previous waves. Most of them were running dangerously low.

The only one who might still have enough mana to use [Whirling Flame] again was Gopushadow. Even then, I doubted his damage output would match Gopuflammy's, or even Gopuro's, especially with the Blazing SkullCleaver.

And after that...

Well, we'd be in serious trouble.

Still, if push came to shove, they could always activate the [Enraged] skill.

But after that...

I really didn't want to think about it.

Yeah... worst-case scenario, I'll activate Enraged and have everyone get the fuck out of there.

Losing the chieftain would be a shame, but at least I'd managed to save more than twenty goblins. That was already something, right?

Besides, I couldn't afford to lose any of my Super Forest Goblins at this point. Not a single one.

....

So, how many are coming this time?

Last time, there had been twelve spiders.

Don't tell me... am I going to have to deal with twenty-four of them now?!

Kakaka...

That would be a bit much.

Even with my goblins fighting at their best, I wasn't confident we could handle another twenty-four spiders. Not when everyone was already exhausted and running low on mana.

Yeah... things are about to get really ugly.

But when the source of the rumbling finally emerged from the darkness, I realized I'd been worrying about the wrong thing.

I was wrong.

There weren't twenty-four spiders.

There weren't even twelve.

There was just...

One.

*****

BOOOOOOM!!!

A gigantic shadow suddenly dropped from above and crashed into the clearing!

The ground exploded beneath its weight, sending dirt, rocks, and shattered roots flying in every direction.

A massive crater formed where the creature landed!

The shock wave swept across the clearing, making my goblins stumble. Even Gopugiga nearly lost his balance, slamming his shield against the ground to keep himself upright.

...

Holy mother....

WHAT THE FUCK IS THAT?!

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REINCARNATED AS A CASTLE - (LITRPG, KINGDOM BUILDING, PROGRESSION)

Chapter 107: Soul Eater?

"What... the fuck is that?!"

I stared at the monster standing in front of us.

No, calling it a monster didn't quite do it justice. This thing was on a completely different level!

The Dark Giant Spiders we'd been fighting were already enormous, standing roughly twice as tall as my goblins.

But this one?

It was easily ten to twelve meters tall, its colossal body towering over the surrounding trees like a living fortress.

Its black exoskeleton was far thicker than that of the ordinary Dark Giant Spiders. Massive plates of armor overlapped across its body, forming a jagged shell bristling with spikes and irregular ridges.

Its eight legs were absurdly long and thick, each one resembling a black pillar encased in layers of armor. The tips of all eight legs glowed with a sinister crimson light, almost as if they'd been dipped in fresh blood.

And then there was its abdomen.

A grotesque, upside-down demonic face appeared to be carved into the surface of its black shell.

At least, that's what it looked like at first glance.

Two deep, slanted grooves formed its eyes, while a wide, twisted grin stretched across its abdomen. Jagged patterns lined its gaping mouth, resembling rows of razor-sharp teeth.

It was a hideous, unnatural smile. The sort of thing you'd expect to see in your worst nightmare, or perhaps carved into the gates of hell itself.

And when the creature shifted its enormous body, the demonic face seemed to stretch, its twisted upside down smile growing even wider.

What the hell is this thing?

A boss monster?!

Its mere presence made the entire clearing feel smaller.

...

Then, the giant spider slowly raised its abdomen.

I watched in horror as the grotesque red mouth embedded in its shell suddenly stretched open, revealing an impossibly wide maw!

Wait... What the hell?!

That thing isn't just decoration?!

It was an actual mouth!

And then, without warning, the monster began to inhale through it.

WHOOOOOOOOOSH!!!

A powerful current of air swept across the clearing!

Leaves and loose branches skittered across the ground, while dust and debris spiraled upward. Even my goblins had to brace themselves against the sudden gust.

But it wasn't just air being pulled toward the monster.

Something else was being dragged along with it.

My entire being trembled as I watched the corpses of the slain Dark Giant Spiders begin to disintegrate. Their black exoskeletons cracked and crumbled, breaking apart into clouds of thick, dark smoke. The smoke rose from the ground in twisting streams, spiraling through the air before being sucked into the giant spider's gaping abdomen mouth.

One after another, the corpses vanished, leaving nothing behind.

Is this thing eating its own kin? What the heck?

But that wasn’t all.

I soon noticed something else was happening around us.

The bodies of the wolves killed earlier were still scattered across the forest floor. Some had been slain by my goblins, while others had fallen victim to the spiders during the chaos.

Unlike the spiders, however, their corpses remained intact.

Instead, faint wisps of light began rising from their lifeless bodies.

They were tiny, almost transparent, and glowed with a pale, ghostly hue. They drifted upward like flickering candle flames, wavering in the air as though struggling against an invisible current.

Then, one by one, they began floating toward the giant spider.

The closer they came, the faster they moved, until each wisp was pulled into that terrible red mouth and disappeared.

...

Wait... Hold on a minute.

I stared at the ghostly wisps, a growing sense of dread creeping through me.

Those things... are they what I think they are?

Suddenly, I remembered all the goblins who’d been killed in the Bright Red Nose Tribe.

...Oh, shit.

Everything was starting to make sense.

I’d wondered why these spiders killed so many creatures. Even the hungriest predators wouldn’t normally slaughter everything in sight without a good reason. At first, I’d assumed they were simply vicious monsters that killed for fun.

But now, after seeing what was happening right before my eyes, I finally understood.

They weren’t just hunting for food.

They were hunting for souls.

...

Damn... these bastards actually eat souls?!

A chill ran through my entire being.

The giant spider continued sucking in the remaining wisps. With every soul it consumed, the demonic face on its abdomen glowed a deeper crimson, its grotesque grin becoming increasingly vivid.

Finally, the last wisp vanished into its gaping mouth.

The monster slowly closed it and lowered its abdomen.

...

Something deep within me recoiled at what I'd just witnessed.

"B... Big Boss?"

Gopuro's trembling voice broke through the silence.

He'd taken an involuntary step backward, his sword shaking in his grip.

"What... what is happening?" Gopuran muttered weakly.

I looked at the others.

Gopuran had gone pale, while Gopuberry stood frozen with her bow lowered, unable to tear her eyes away from the monster. Even Gopugiga, who'd fearlessly stood against multiple spiders at once, was gripping his shield so tightly that his knuckles had turned pale.

Yet none of them were suffering from a negative status effect.

[Blessing of Protection] was still active, shielding them from the spiders' supernatural fear aura. Whatever they were experiencing now, it wasn't the effect of that skill.

No.

They were afraid because they'd witnessed something that defied their understanding of the world.

*****

Yeah...

I understood their fear.

Because I was feeling it, too.

For the first time since reincarnating in this world, I felt genuine dread. A deep, instinctive terror that made every part of my being want to retreat.

Because even though I was technically an immortal castle, I wasn't just an empty building made of stone and magic.

I still had a soul.

Deep down, I was still me. Just an ordinary guy who'd died choking on a damn chicken nugget and somehow ended up reincarnated as a castle in this strange world.

And if these spiders could consume souls...

Then what would be able to stop them from consuming mine?

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REINCARNATED AS A CASTLE - (LITRPG, KINGDOM BUILDING, PROGRESSION)

Chapter 108: Giant Boss

And just like that... everyone froze in fear.

Even I could barely think straight anymore.

Then, suddenly...

"POWER SHOT!!!"

FWIP!

An arrow shot out from behind us, flying straight toward the giant spider's head!

Unfortunately, it bounced right off the monster’s thick exoskeleton and clattered to the ground.

Still, that single attack seemed to snap everyone out of their stupor.

"Come on, guys! Get a hold of yourselves!" Gopuberry shouted, already raising her bow for another shot. "So what if this thing looks scary? At the end of the day, it’s just one giant spider!"

"Hahaha! That’s right!" Gopuro exclaimed, his familiar grin returning despite the sweat dripping down his face. "We defeated twelve of these spiders earlier! Now there’s only one bigger one left! We’ve got the advantage!"

"Yeah!" Gopuran nodded firmly. "We can’t just give up without even trying!"

"ALRIGHT! BRING IT ON!" Gopugiga roared, puffing out his chest.

And just like that, my goblins managed to pull themselves together.

Their bodies were still trembling, and I could tell they weren’t nearly as confident as they were pretending to be. Still, they raised their weapons and spread out, keeping their eyes fixed on the enormous monster.

Meanwhile, I took a deep mental breath.

Right...

What’s being afraid of this thing going to accomplish?

Nothing. Absolutely nothing.

We had a problem right in front of us, and unless we wanted to die here, we had to do something about it.

We needed to survive. That was all there was to it.

"Alright, guys! Let’s show this big bastard what we’ve got!"

"YEAHHHH!"

All six goblins raised their weapons, ready to spring into action.

The colossal spider lowered its head toward us.

Krrr... krrr...

Its enormous mandibles clicked together, and thick strands of saliva dripped from its maw, landing on the ground below.

"Hahaha! Look at you!" Gopuflammy grinned, hefting the Blazing Skullcleaver. "Already drooling, huh? Are we really that delicious?"

"If you didn't smell so terrible, you might actually look pretty appetizing!" Gopugiga added with a grin.

I wasn't entirely sure the spider could even understand their trash talk, but hey, at least it seemed to boost everyone's confidence a little!

...

As if responding to the taunt, the spider's crimson eyes narrowed.

Then...

"KIEEEEEEEEEEEEK!!!"

Its shrill screech tore through the clearing!

And the battle began!

The enormous spider suddenly leaped into the air, its colossal body soaring toward my goblins!

For a brief moment, its shadow swallowed the entire clearing.

Then it came crashing down!

BOOOOOOOOM!!!!

The moment its legs struck the ground, the earth split beneath its overwhelming weight. Dirt and rocks erupted into the air, while a powerful shock wave swept across the clearing.

However, my goblins had already scattered!

Gopuro and Gopuran dodged in opposite directions, while Gopuflammy rolled away from the impact. Gopuberry retreated behind a tree, and even Gopugiga managed to lumber out of the landing zone before the spider's legs crushed the ground where he'd been standing.

BOOOOOOM!!!

Another crater formed beneath the monster as it stomped one of its legs.

Holy crap!

That thing was strong!

But...

Haha! It doesn’t seem particularly fast, at least!

The giant spider raised its front legs and swung them toward Gopuro.

WOOOSH!

The attacks were terrifyingly powerful, but its movements were surprisingly straightforward. Gopuro sidestepped the first strike and ducked beneath the second, narrowly avoiding the blade-like tips as they tore through the air above his head.

The spider followed up with a sideways sweep.

WOOOOOOOOSH!

Gopuro jumped backward just in time, watching the enormous leg slice through the space where he’d been standing.

"HAHAHA! Too slow!" he shouted with a grin.

"Hey! Don’t get cocky!" Gopuran warned him. "Keep your guard up!"

"Tch... I know!"

The spider now focused on Gopuro and charged.

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

Its eight legs pounded against the ground, shaking the earth with every step.

"AAAAAAA!!!! WHY ME?! WHY IS IT ALWAYS ME?!"

Gopuro immediately took off running, his legs moving at full speed as the enormous creature pursued him.

Yet despite the spider’s terrifying size, it struggled to keep up with the nimble goblin.

"Haha! Maybe it’s because you look the most appetizing!" Gopuran called after him.

"THE HELL DOES THAT MEAN?!"

While Gopuro desperately tried to keep the monster occupied, Gopuran suddenly changed direction and rushed toward one of its legs.

"HEYAAA!"

She swung Gopuflammy’s hammer with all her strength, smashing it against the spider’s armored limb!

CLANG!!!

The impact rang through the clearing.

At almost the same moment, Gopuflammy charged in from behind, swinging the Blazing SkullCleaver at the another leg.

"TAKE THIS!"

CLANG!!!

Both weapons struck the monster’s armor.

And...

Nothing happened.

...

"Ahh! Seriously?"

Gopuflammy stared at her axe in disbelief before trying again, this time aiming for a different spot.

CLANG! CLANG! CLANG!

Sparks flew with every strike, but the spider’s black exoskeleton remained completely intact.

Not even a scratch.

"Tch!"

Gopuflammy clicked her tongue and quickly retreated as the monster turned toward her.

One of its front legs came crashing down.

BOOOOM!!!

She dodged just in time, and the attack shattered the ground where she'd been standing. Fragments of rock and clumps of dirt flew past her as she rolled away.

Meanwhile, I was busy examining everything I could about this monster, from its attack patterns to its speed and defense.

Okay...

It's definitely slow enough for my goblins to dodge. Its attacks are powerful, but they're not impossible to avoid, either.

The real problem is its defense.

The giant spider's exoskeleton was ridiculously tough.

Ordinary attacks barely seemed to affect it at all.

If we wanted to do any meaningful damage, we'd probably have to rely on skills.

WOOOSH!

The spider swept another leg toward Gopuflammy.

She ducked beneath it and immediately counterattacked, swinging her axe into the monster's side.

CLANG!!!

The impact echoed through the clearing.

The spider barely even flinched.

...Yeah. That's not going to work.

If only Flammy had enough MP left to use Whirling Flame again. That might actually hurt this thing.

Unfortunately, she'd already burned through most of her mana during the previous battle.

Still, it wasn't as if we were completely out of options.

"Shadow! Take this!"

Gopuflammy suddenly shouted as she swung her arm and hurled the Blazing SkullCleaver toward Gopushadow!

The enormous axe spun through the air.

Gopushadow’s eyes widened for a split second. He quickly sheathed his daggers and caught the weapon with both hands.

"Got it!"

"Let’s see if your little tricks can do something!" Gopuflammy called out.

Gopushadow grinned.

"Kakaka! Leave it to me!"

At the same time, Gopugiga moved into position.

"GIGA! LEND ME YOUR POWER!" Gopushadow shouted.

"ALRIGHT!"

The enormous goblin crouched low, grabbed Gopushadow, and hurled him into the air with all his strength!

"WHOOOOOOOAAAAAA!"

Gopushadow shot forward like a freaking rocket!

...

Well, that was a pretty reckless move there, but at least the idea wasn’t bad.

With the huge momentum from Gopugiga’s throw, Gopushadow’s next strike was going to gain much more power!

He twisted in midair, gripping the Blazing SkullCleaver tightly with both hands as he flew straight toward the monster, which was already being distracted by Gopuflammy.

The orange markings along the weapon’s handle started to glow.

Then flames erupted from the blade.

FWOOSHHHH!!!

"AAAAA!!! WHIRLING FLAME!!!"

Gopushadow swung the axe with all his strength!

A blazing wheel of fire burst from the weapon, spinning toward the giant spider's abdomen in a streak of orange and red!

KRRRAAAAAAASH!!!

The fiery wheel slammed into its armored body and exploded in a burst of scorching flames!

For the first time since its arrival, the enormous spider staggered.

Its massive legs scraped against the ground as it struggled to maintain its balance. Flames spread across its black exoskeleton, licking at the armored plates and sending thick trails of smoke billowing into the air.

The spider writhed in pain, letting out a piercing screech as it desperately tried to shake off the burning flames.

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Chapter 109: Retreat?

No way!

We actually hurt it?!

Gopushadow landed on the ground, rolling several times before springing back to his feet.

He looked at the giant spider, then raised his head and grinned.

"Kakaka! How's that, you oversized bug?!"

Nice!

The attack hadn't killed the monster, but it had finally managed to penetrate that absurdly tough exoskeleton.

That was enough.

At least now we knew the bastard wasn't completely invulnerable.

Of course, the wound wasn't nearly as serious as I'd hoped. But well, that wasn't entirely unexpected.

If a single [Whirling Flame] could kill this thing, I would have been more surprised than happy.

The fire continued burning around the wound for a few more seconds before finally fading away.

The giant spider slowly raised its head, its crimson eyes fixed on Gopushadow.

...

Uh-oh.

It was pissed now.

KREEEEEEEECHHHH!!!

The spider let out a furious screech before charging straight toward Gopushadow!

"YIKES!!!"

Gopushadow immediately dropped the Blazing SkullCleaver and ran!

The guy was ridiculously fast, though. There was no way this enormous spider would be able to catch him as long as he kept moving.

At least that was reassuring.

"Alright! Everyone, listen up!" I shouted through [Ruler's Voice]. "I don't really want to say this, but we're retreating!"

"Huh?!" Gopuro exclaimed in surprise.

Gopuran also looked confused.

"Big Boss, are you sure?! We can still fight!"

"With what?! There's no way you can damage it with ordinary attacks anymore! And besides, our objective has already been completed!"

At my words, the goblins finally remembered why we'd come here in the first place.

"Right!" Gopuro exclaimed. "The chieftain!"

He quickly glanced behind him.

And there, standing beside the elderly shaman, was the Bright Red Nose Tribe's chieftain.

****

Yup...

At the end of the day, our objective had never been to defeat this boss monster.

We'd come here to rescue the Bright Red Nose Tribe's chieftain and help the survivors escape.

And now... we'd already accomplished the most important part.

The chieftain was alive and had finally awakened.

The enormous goblin had just managed to get back on his feet, although he was still leaning heavily on the shaman for support. His body was covered in wounds, and his face was pale from the terrible injuries he'd suffered.

Still, he was conscious. That was what mattered.

His eyes slowly swept across the clearing, taking in the shattered ground, the scattered corpses of the Dark Giant Spiders, and the colossal monster standing before him.

His expression changed.

Perfect.

Mission accomplished.

"Good job, everyone."

Now...

We just had to get the hell out of here.

"EVERYONE! FALL BACK! PROTECT THE CHIEFTAIN AND RETREAT!" I issued my final order.

"YES!"

My goblins immediately began withdrawing, keeping their weapons raised as they warily watched the giant spider.

Unfortunately, the monster didn't seem particularly interested in letting us leave.

Or rather...

It didn't seem particularly interested in letting Gopushadow leave.

After all, he was the one who'd managed to wound it.

"Hahaha! Shadow, looks like you've made yourself a little enemy!" Gopuro shouted.

BOOOOOOM!!!

The giant spider suddenly leaped into the air and crashed down right where Gopushadow had been running!

The ground shattered beneath its enormous weight, sending dirt and rocks flying in every direction.

But...

It had hit nothing but air.

Gopushadow was already gone!

The slender goblin had changed direction at the last moment, darting out of the attack range with his usual agility.

The giant spider turned toward him, raised its massive body, and let out another furious screech.

KREEEEEECHHHH!!!

Gopushadow glanced over his shoulder at the enormous monster. Then, instead of looking frightened, he turned around with a wide grin.

"Kakakaka! Just you wait, you ugly bastard!"

He pointed his dagger toward the spider and proudly declared:

"Once me get stronger, me come back and kill your ass! Then me make you into spider soup!"

Yeah, sure, Shadow. Whatever you say...

Once we got back to my castle and had some time to regroup, I'd train an even stronger group of warriors. We'd come back eventually and settle the score with this terrifying bastard.

This time, it might have won.

But next time? Things would be different.

...

Or at least, that was what I thought.

"There's no need to wait until next time..."

A deep voice suddenly rang out across the battlefield.

Gopuro turned toward the speaker, his eyes widening.

Because standing just a short distance away was a familiar figure.

It was the chieftain!

Wait... WHAT?!

When did he get here?!

I was just as surprised.

One moment, the guy had barely managed to wake up after nearly dying. Now he was already standing on his own?

More importantly...

Something about his presence had changed.

The weakness and exhaustion were still there. His wounds hadn't magically disappeared, and he was clearly far from fully recovered.

But his eyes...

They were filled with confidence and an unwavering resolve as he stared at the colossal spider.

The chieftain then reached out with his remaining right arm and picked up the Blazing SkullCleaver that Gopushadow had dropped.

He examined the weapon for a moment, running his fingers along the curve of its blade.

"What a fine weapon..." he murmured. "May I borrow this?"

"S-Sure?" Gopuro replied, still looking somewhat bewildered.

"Wait a minute!" Gopuberry hurried over, her eyes widening when she saw the chieftain holding the axe. "You want to fight?!"

"Yes."

"But it’s dangerous!" she protested. "You just woke up! You haven’t even recovered your strength yet!"

"Yeah!" Gopuflammy chimed in. "Please, don’t push yourself! Everyone has already escaped. You don’t need to fight anymore!"

"That’s right!" Gopuran added. "We’ve already exhausted so many resources and worked so hard just to save you. Please don’t do anything reckless now!"

"Besides, we need to hurry! The Cursed Land’s mist will reach this area soon!" Gopuro pointed toward the distant forest.

However...

The chieftain didn’t seem convinced.

He lowered his head, studying the Blazing SkullCleaver in his hand.

"Please... let me do this. Just give me five seconds. One strike..."

His fingers slowly tightened around the axe handle.

"I want to slay at least one more of these bastards."

...

For a moment, nobody said anything.

Then...

FWWWWOOOOOM!!!

The Blazing SkullCleaver suddenly began to glow!

The orange markings engraved along its handle ignited one after another, their light spreading across the weapon like flowing flames.

The fire quickly traveled from the axe to the chieftain’s right arm!

His arm was engulfed in flames.

Then the fire spread across his body, wrapping around his enormous frame like a blazing cloak. The flames danced over his wounds and armor, casting a fiery glow across the clearing.

His eyes burned with fierce determination.

But beneath that determination...

There was something else, too.

Hatred.

Deep, burning hatred toward the kind of monsters that had slaughtered his people.

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Reincarnated as a Castle - (LitRPG, Kingdom Building, Progression) Chapter 110 - NOVGO.NET

Chapter 110: A final attack

"Alright, let him do it," I said.

"But, Big Boss!" Gopuran was about to protest.

"It’s fine."

I interrupted her.

For some reason, even though I wasn’t physically there and could only see everything through my goblins’ eyes, I could somehow feel it.

His anger.

The deep, burning hatred he held toward the monster that had slaughtered so many of his people.

I could see the determination in his eyes, too.

But more than that...

I had a feeling the chieftain had been blaming himself all this time for not being strong enough to protect his tribe.

Perhaps that was why he needed to make this final strike. He wanted to prove something, not to us, but to himself.

That he was still capable of fighting.

That he could still take revenge against the monsters that had destroyed his home.

Well...

If it is just one strike, I suppose we can afford to give him that much.

I withdrew my previous retreat order and issued a new one.

"Alright. Shadow, think you can keep that thing occupied for a little longer?"

"No problem!!!" Gopushadow immediately replied.

The slender goblin grinned and dashed back toward the giant spider.

At the same time, I relayed another message through Gopuro.

"Twenty seconds. No matter what happens, we're leaving after that."

"Understood," the chieftain replied.

And so...

The battle resumed!

*****

Fortunately, Gopushadow was still holding the spider's attention, so buying the chieftain a little time wasn't particularly difficult.

The skinny goblin darted across the battlefield, weaving between the monster's enormous legs and repeatedly drawing its attention.

Meanwhile, the others quickly withdrew to a safer distance.

It wasn't that they didn't want to help. Rather, there wasn't much they could do against this monster at their current strength. Their ordinary attacks couldn't even scratch its exoskeleton, and charging in recklessly would only put them in unnecessary danger.

For now, the best thing they could do was stay out of the way.

Meanwhile...

The chieftain was already approaching the battlefield.

The flames surrounding his body were growing brighter, and the Blazing SkullCleaver in his hand was glowing more intensely. Its orange markings burned like molten metal, while waves of heat radiated from the blade.

The air around his enormous frame began to shimmer and distort.

...Wait a minute.

Could this guy have a Fire mana attribute, too?

Haha... That's crazy!

That would explain the weapon's reaction.

After all, the Blazing SkullCleaver would grant a 30% damage bonus to anyone with a Fire mana attribute.

If the chieftain possessed one as well, then he'd be getting that bonus!

But there was something else I'd noticed.

Hold on...

How is he even standing there without being affected by the spider's fear aura?

Right!

The chieftain wasn't one of my citizens, which meant he wasn't receiving [Blessing of Protection] from me.

And yet, despite standing so close to the giant spider, he showed no signs of fear whatsoever.

Meaning he must have some other way to resist that aura.

Interesting...

....

Just then...

The chieftain suddenly shifted his stance.

He planted his feet firmly against the ground and raised the Blazing SkullCleaver to his side. His enormous muscles tightened as he lowered his body, gathering strength for what looked like a powerful charge.

Then...

"BERSERKER'S RAGE, ACTIVATE!!!"

BOOOOOOM!!!

An incredible burst of power erupted from his body!

His muscles bulged, growing considerably larger than before. The veins along his arms and neck stood out prominently, and his already enormous frame seemed to expand even further.

Oh shit! What the hell?

A self power up skill?

His entire body had undergone a dramatic transformation!

"Shaman! What the heck is that?!" Gopuro exclaimed, staring at the chieftain in disbelief.

"That is the chieftain's skill," the elderly shaman explained. "It allows him to greatly increase his power for a short period of time. He sacrifices his defensive capabilities and converts that power into offensive strength."

"Ohhh! Is that so?" Gopuro nodded, his eyes widening.

Wait...

He sacrifices his defense for more attack power?

That was quite a dangerous ability.

But considering what he was planning to do, I suppose it made sense. He needed to gather all of his strength into this slash. It's all or nothing.

Besides that, the shaman had already also cast another powerful enhancement spell on him just moments ago.

With that blessing, [Berserker's Rage], and the Blazing SkullCleaver's special effect all working together, his offensive stats must have skyrocketed.

Damn...

Looks like the chieftain is really going all out.

I watched with bated breath.

The chieftain lowered his body and began charging toward the giant spider.

His enormous legs pounded against the ground with every step, each stride carrying him closer to the monster. The flames surrounding him grew brighter, trailing behind his body like a burning cloak.

Haha... This is going to be one hell of a slash...

I couldn't help but feeling so exciteed.

With all those buffs stacked together, just how powerful would his attack become?

Would it actually be enough to break through that ridiculous exoskeleton?

Come on, Chieftain...

Show me what you've got!

****

Unfortunately...

The giant spider seemed to sense that something was wrong.

Until now, it had been almost entirely focused on Gopushadow. But suddenly, it stopped chasing him.

Its enormous body shifted, and its crimson eyes turned toward the approaching chieftain.

KRRRRR...

The monster’s mandibles clicked.

It had noticed the new threat.

"HEY! OVER HERE, YOU UGLY BASTARD!"

Gopushadow shouted, desperately trying to draw its attention back.

He even threw one of his daggers!

Clang!

The weapon bounced harmlessly off the spider’s exoskeleton.

Completely useless.

The monster didn’t even bother looking at him. Its crimson eyes remained fixed on the approaching chieftain.

Then...

"KIEEEEEEEEEEEEK!!!"

The giant spider let out a furious screech!

It raised its enormous body and spread its eight legs wide, preparing to intercept the incoming goblin!

...

But even then, the chieftain didn’t slow down.

Neither did the spider.

For a brief moment, the entire battlefield seemed to fall silent.

A colossal monster, twelve meters tall, stood ready to crush anything in its path.

And charging straight toward it was a wounded goblin chieftain, wielding a flaming axe with only one arm.

The difference in their size was absurd.

Yet neither side showed any intention of backing down.

Then...

BOOOOOOOOOOM!!!

The giant spider suddenly charged!

Its enormous body surged forward, shaking the ground with every step.

At the same time, its two front legs swung inward!

SHHHHIIIIIING!!!

SHHHHIIIIIING!!!

The blade-like appendages crossed each other, forming a massive X-shaped slash aimed directly at the chieftain!

OH SHIT!

The attack was coming from both sides!

"CHIEFTAIN!!!" Gopuran shouted.

"WATCH OUT!" Gopuberry cried.

But just as the two enormous blades were about to close in...

The chieftain’s legs suddenly tensed.

His muscles bulged.

And then...

BOOOOOOOOOOM!!!

The chieftain leaped into the air, the ground beneath his feet exploding from the sheer force of his jump!

His enormous body soared over the spider’s incoming X-shaped attack, leaving its two blade-like legs to cross beneath him and cut through empty air.

Before the monster could react, he was already above it.

He twisted in midair, gripping the Blazing SkullCleaver tightly with his remaining right hand and raising it high above his head.

The orange markings along its handle burned brighter, and flames erupted from the blade, engulfing its entire length!

FWWWWOOOOOOOSH!!!

The chieftain descended.

The spider was still recovering from its failed attack. Its front legs were extended, leaving its back completely exposed.

NICE!!!

What an opening!

*****

And so...

"GRAAAAAAAAAAHHHH!!!"

The chieftain roared.

"EAT THIS!!! WHIRLING FLAME!!!"

He brought the axe down.

A gigantic wheel of fire erupted from the Blazing SkullCleaver!

And holy shit!

Unlike the previous attacks unleashed by my goblins, this one was absolutely enormous!

It was easily three times larger than the fire wheel Gopuflammy had produced!

The flames were also much more intense, burning so brightly that they almost seemed to turn white at their center!

FWWWOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOM!!!

The blazing wheel swallowed the chieftain’s silhouette as it crashed into the spider’s back!

The impact shook the entire clearing.

The spider’s thick black exoskeleton shattered beneath the overwhelming force. Massive chunks of armor broke apart, and its enormous body buckled under the attack.

Then...

BOOOOOOOOOM!!!

A blazing line tore through the monster's entire body, from its abdomen all the way to its head!

"KIEEEEEEEEEEEEEEK!!!"

The spider let out one final, ear-piercing shriek.

Its eight legs thrashed violently, scraping against the ground as its crimson eyes flickered. For a brief moment, its enormous body seemed to struggle against the inevitable.

But it was already too late.

The colossal spider split completely in half.

Its two enormous halves crashed to the ground in opposite directions as a massive wave of fire swept across the clearing.

Flames surged into the sky, while chunks of black armor and burning fragments scattered in every direction.

****

Moments later...

He remained standing, the Blazing SkullCleaver still firmly gripped in his right hand.

Slowly, the flames surrounding his body began to fade.

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