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

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

As the spider finally fell, the chieftain stood before its enormous corpse, his head held high.

Black blood rained down from the severed body, splattering across his armor and staining his already battered figure. Yet he didn't seem to care.

Meanwhile, from the spider's split abdomen, thousands upon thousands of glowing wisps began pouring out. They drifted gently into the air, rising toward the sky like countless tiny stars scattered across the night.

They were free.

Woah...

What an incredible sight...

CLANG!

The chieftain finally released the giant axe, letting it fall to the ground.

Then...

"RAAAAAAAAAAARGH!!!"

He let out a powerful, victorious roar!

It sounded as though all the frustration, anger, and hatred he'd been holding inside for so long had finally found an outlet. His voice echoed across the clearing, carrying everything he'd endured, everything he'd lost.

And my goblins weren't any quieter.

"HELL YEAH!!!"

"HE DID IT!!!"

"THAT WAS AWESOME!!!"

They erupted into cheers, their excitement spreading through the group. Some even raised their weapons into the air, celebrating the chieftain’s victory.

Meanwhile...

I could feel my core pulsating faster as a warm sense of pride and joy washed over me.

Damn...

He really did it.

This madman...

The chieftain then pushed himself forward and leaped toward the others, landing right in front of Gopuro.

Gopushadow soon arrived as well, panting heavily after spending so much time keeping the monster occupied.

The chieftain smiled at them, clearly pleased with his victory.

But then...

"Urgh..."

His legs suddenly buckled.

"Chieftain!" Gopuberry and Gopuran cried out.

Everyone immediately rushed over to support him before he could fall.

"I’m fine..." the chieftain muttered, waving his hand dismissively. "Just a little tired, that’s all."

Only after hearing that did everyone finally breathe a sigh of relief.

I decided to give him another ten seconds to catch his breath while the shaman checked him for any serious injuries.

Fortunately, everything seemed fine.

Then...

"Alright, let’s go. We’re heading back to the castle," I announced.

"Yeah! Let’s go!" Gopuro replied.

However, before leaving, he glanced back toward the battlefield.

His gaze lingered on the numerous wolf corpses scattered across the clearing before shifting toward the colossal remains of the giant spider.

...

Damn... What a waste...

After all, there were so many valuable resources lying right there!

The wolves alone would probably fetch more than fifty thousand Points, by my estimation. And that wasn’t even counting the materials from that enormous spider...

I really wanted to bring all of them home.

It felt so unfair that we’d fought so hard and so bravely against all these enemies, only to leave their loot behind because we couldn’t carry it all home.

Skitter... Skitter... Skitter...

From somewhere in the distance, I could hear it.

More and more of those dreadful clicking sounds were approaching.

There were still other spiders out there.

And the situation was getting worse by the second. The Cursed Land continued to expand, its dark mist creeping closer as the sky grew darker and darker.

Damn it...

It was simply too risky.

We couldn’t afford to get greedy and end up losing everything we’d just fought so hard to save.

But then, suddenly...

"Big Boss, look! What’s that?" Gopuberry called out, pointing toward the giant spider’s corpse.

I followed her gaze.

Now that all the souls had escaped, the spider’s bisected abdomen lay exposed. And nestled inside it was something I hadn’t noticed before.

A giant orb.

It was deep black, almost like obsidian, and roughly the size of a large soccer ball. Its surface was covered in tiny cracks, with several noticeable chips along its edges. Every now and then, something deep within its dark interior seemed to pulse, a faint red-ish light, almost like the slow beating of a crystal heart.

What the heck is that?

I stared at it curiously.

But for some reason, it reminded me of something...

My Castle Core.

The resemblance was uncanny.

Meanwhile, Gopuro had already approached the strange object.

The goblin stared at the orb with sparkling eyes. Whatever it was, it certainly looked valuable!

And naturally, he reached out to grab it.

"HEY! DON’T TOUCH THAT!"

I immediately shouted through [Ruler’s Voice].

Fortunately, Gopuran reacted just as quickly. She grabbed her brother’s hand before he could touch the mysterious orb.

"Brother! Are you stupid?! We don’t even know what that thing is! What if it kills you the moment you touch it?!" Gopuran scolded him.

"Gulp..."

Gopuro swallowed nervously, seemingly realizing just how reckless he’d almost been.

Seriously, this guy...

Gopuran then took out her sack and emptied its contents, setting aside the unnecessary supplies. Afterward, she carefully wrapped the orb in a piece of cloth before placing it inside.

And just to be safe...

We triple-bagged the damn thing.

Whatever it was, I wasn't about to risk anyone getting hurt by handling it carelessly.

Once we returned to the castle, I could examine it properly with my system and, hopefully, figure out what we'd just found.

But for the moment, we had more pressing matters.

"Alright, everyone, let's move!"

We finally began our retreat.

*****

Two hours later, we finally made it back.

Along the way, we'd also caught up with the group of survivors. Fortunately, they hadn't encountered any other dangers during their journey, so everyone was safe and accounted for.

That's good.

On the other hand, since it was still afternoon, the sky had gradually grown brighter as we moved farther away from the expanding Cursed Land.

Still, the fact that the Cursed Land was now less than twenty kilometers from my castle was already making me rather uncomfortable.

At this rate, it probably wouldn't be long before its dark mist swallowed my territory as well.

And the worst part?

I was a castle. I couldn't exactly get up and run away. So if the Cursed Land reached me, there wouldn't be much I could do about it.

I really needed to prepare as much as possible before that disaster arrived.

Well, at least we'd completed our mission.

Not only had we rescued the Bright Red Nose Tribe's chieftain and his daughter, but we'd also gained a whole bunch of new goblins!

...

And now, it was time to welcome our guests.

I opened my gate, allowing the goblins to step into my territory.

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

Chapter 112: Welcome to Castle Tribe!

I opened my gate, allowing the goblins to step into my territory.

One by one, the newcomers cautiously crossed the entrance, their eyes wandering over the courtyard and the surrounding castle walls.

"Woah... So this is the Castle Tribe?"

The chieftain’s daughter looked around with wide, curious eyes.

"Yeah! This will be your new home! Welcome to the Castle Tribe!" Gopuflammy said with a grin.

She approached the girl and placed a hand on her shoulder, looking rather pleased with herself as she introduced the place.

Well...

There wasn’t actually all that much to see yet though.

My castle was still roughly the size of a small manor. We had an average-sized courtyard, a single storage house, a small well, a slime toilet, and two construction projects that were still underway.

That was pretty much it.

And yet, the newcomers seemed thoroughly impressed.

Their eyes sparkled as they looked around, almost as though they’d just arrived at some magnificent royal palace.

Haha...

Well, that's good.

At least their first impression of their new home seemed to be a positive one. After everything they'd been through, I was glad they could finally settle somewhere safe.

Soon, everyone gathered in the courtyard, where we'd hastily prepared a huge bonfire for the occasion.

The newcomers watched curiously as my goblins busied themselves with the preparations. Some even offered help gathering wood and stones.

Once everything was ready, I sent a message to Gopuro.

The moment he received it, the guy broke into a grin. He immediately stood up, brushed the dirt off his clothes, and hurried toward the center of the courtyard.

He even took a moment to straighten his posture before raising his voice to get everyone's attention.

"ALRIGHT, EVERYONE!!!"

The courtyard gradually fell quiet as the goblins turned toward him.

"To welcome our new friends to the Castle Tribe, our great lord, the Big Boss, has prepared a special present for everyone!"

He paused dramatically, allowing his words to sink in.

Then, he raised two hands toward the sky.

"BEHOLD! OUR LORD'S MIRACLE!!!"

And right at that moment...

POOF! POOF! POOF! POOF!

A massive feast suddenly materialized above the courtyard!

Steaks!

Chicken!

Pork chops!

Apples!

And bananas!

They came raining down from the sky, dropping onto everyone's heads and scattering across the courtyard!

Needless to say, the reaction was absolutely wild!

"WOAAAAAAAAH!!!"

"HOLY SHIT! MEAT! IT'S RAINING MEAT!!!"

"FOOD! SO MUCH FOOD!!!"

The newcomers were completely shocked!

They scrambled to collect the falling food, hurriedly picking up whatever had landed nearby. Within seconds, the courtyard had turned into a chaotic scramble, with goblins shouting and laughing as they gathered their unexpected gifts.

One goblin couldn't even wait.

He grabbed a large piece of meat and sank his teeth into it right away.

"MNNNGHH!!!"

His eyes suddenly widened.

"WOAHHHH! WHAT THE FUCK IS THIS?! THIS MEAT IS FREAKING DELICIOUS!!!"

And that was all it took.

The others quickly followed suit. Before long, the entire courtyard was filled with excited shouts, laughter, and the sounds of goblins devouring their food.

Meanwhile, even the chieftain was left speechless.

He stared at the enormous slab of tomahawk steak in his hands, his eyes trembling slightly as though he couldn't quite believe what he was seeing.

He looked down at the steak, then up toward the castle, his eyes glistening with tears.

"..."

For a moment, he didn't know what to say.

Then he took a bite.

Then his eyes were filled with more tears.

His daughter, on the other hand, was already tugging at his remaining arm.

"Father! Look! It’s so big!"

The girl held up a piece of chicken with both hands, her face glowing with excitement.

The chieftain couldn’t help but smile and patted her head..

Meanwhile...

"AAAAHHHH! A MIRACLE! TRULY A MIRACLE!!!"

The elderly shaman was already holding two chicken drumsticks and danced a weird dance!

He had apparently wasted no time claiming his share.

The old goblin brought one drumstick to his mouth and took a generous bite.

"Mmmmmmm~~~!!!"

His eyes immediately rolled back in pure bliss.

Then, all of a sudden, he dropped to his knees and prostrated himself toward the castle!.

"A GOD! THE LORD OF THE CASTLE TRIBE IS TRULY A GOD!!!"

Tears were streaming down his face.

"TO THINK THAT THE CASTLE LORD CAN SUMMON SUCH WONDERFUL FOOD FROM THE HEAVENS! THIS IS TRULY A DIVINE MIRACLE!"

And hearing the shaman saying that, several goblins next to him instantly did the same thing.

They hurriedly placed their food aside before dropping to their knees and prostrating themselves toward me.

"ALL HAIL THE CASTLE TRIBE LORD!"

"ALL HAIL THE MIGHTY BIG BOSS!"

Watching them, I couldn't help but laugh.

MUHAHAHAHAHAHA!

Now THIS is the effect I wanted!

Look at them!

They're practically worshipping me!

Still...

One more time, I'm not really a god though...

And just like that, the welcoming feast began.

My goblins then took the opportunity to teach the newcomers how to prepare the meat properly, cooking them and seasoning them with salt.

The newcomers were more than happy to follow their instructions.

Before long, the entire courtyard was filled with the delicious smell of roasted meat.

Needless to say, everyone absolutely loved it!

I simply let them enjoy themselves.

The feast continued for hours, lasting until the sun had nearly disappeared beyond the horizon.

The bonfire burned brightly in the center of the courtyard, its warm light illuminating the goblins gathered around it. Some were still eating, others were chatting with their new companions, and a few had already become so full that they were lying on their backs with their stomachs bulging.

It was quite a lively scene.

And honestly...

Seeing everyone gathered together like this made me feel rather satisfied.

Hehe...

Looks like the Castle Tribe is getting bigger.

And finally, once everyone had eaten their fill... it was time for the next step.

Alright...

Now that everyone has a full stomach, let's officially welcome them into the Castle Tribe!

It was time to grant them all Castle Citizenship!

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

Chapter 113: The Chieftain's Thoughts

It was time to grant them citizenship!

With more than twenty additional Super Forest Goblins joining my tribe, I would be able to expand my workforce considerably. More hands meant faster construction, faster resource gathering, and, most importantly, faster development for my territory!

In other words, my little castle would finally have enough manpower to start growing properly.

Hehe...

Things are looking up!

But then...

I soon discovered a rather troublesome problem.

For some reason, I'd completely forgotten that granting citizenship to goblins actually cost Points!

The moment I checked how much it would take to grant citizenship to everyone, I froze.

A normal goblin cost less than 10 Points.

Hobgoblins cost between 20 and 40 Points.

Hulkgoblins cost between 100 and 200 Points.

And the chieftain...

2,563 Points!

Oi... What the hell?

I stared at the number for several seconds, wondering if I'd somehow read it incorrectly.

Nope.

Still 2,563.

Well, after thinking about it for a moment, I suppose it made sense.

The chieftain was ridiculously strong. Out of curiosity, I activated [Eye of the Overlord] and checked his basic information now that he'd entered my territory.

Level 83.

Holy!

As expected of someone that strong!

Considering the insane combat power he'd demonstrated against that giant spider, I could understand why the system valued him so highly. In fact, more than 2,000 Points might have been a perfectly reasonable price for someone of his caliber.

Still... at this rate, it would take a small fortune just to grant citizenship to everyone!

And my current balance?

Only 323 Points!

Haha...

Yeah, that's nowhere near enough.

*****

After giving it some thought, I decided to start with the lower-level goblins first.

There were fifteen ordinary goblins among the newcomers. Their citizenship costs were relatively cheap, so I could probably afford to bring all of them into the tribe without completely emptying my wallet.

As for the Hobgoblins and Hulkgoblins...

Well, I'd have to deal with them later.

But before I started handing out citizenship, there was something else I needed to do.

I should at least ask their leader for permission first.

After all, they'd only just arrived. Even if we'd rescued them, that didn't mean I could simply declare them members of my tribe without consulting anyone. Besides, the chieftain was still their leader. It was only right to discuss the matter with him first.

Thus, I quickly contacted Gopuran and explained what I wanted her to do.

She listened carefully before giving me a firm nod.

"Understood, Big Boss!"

With that, she immediately made her way toward the chieftain, who was sitting near the bonfire with his daughter.

The giant goblin seemed to be enjoying a quiet moment with her, occasionally listening to whatever she had to say. His expression was much more relaxed than it had been during our expedition, although the exhaustion from his injuries was still quite noticeable.

Gopuran approached them and stopped a short distance away.

"Hey, Chieftain."

The chieftain turned toward her.

"Hm? Is there something you need?"

"Yeah. There's something I want to discuss with you."

"Oh? What is it?"

Gopuran glanced at him, then looked toward the other goblins nearby.

"Would you and your people like to join the Castle Tribe?"

The moment those words left her mouth... the entire courtyard suddenly went quiet.

It was almost as though everyone had overheard her question.

The goblins who'd been chatting nearby stopped what they were doing. Some slowly turned their heads, while others exchanged glances before looking toward their chieftain.

Even those who'd been enjoying the last bits of their food seemed to have lost their appetite.

...Huh?

Why did the atmosphere suddenly get so heavy?

I could practically feel the tension spreading through the courtyard.

At first, I was a little confused.

But after thinking about it for a moment, I quickly understood.

Right...

I get it now.

Joining the Castle Tribe wasn't exactly a small decision. It meant that the Bright Red Nose Tribe, the group these goblins had belonged to for generations, would officially cease to exist.

And the chieftain...

He would no longer be their chieftain.

He'd be giving up the position he'd held for so long, along with the name and identity of his tribe.

Even though the Bright Red Nose Tribe had lost its home, that didn't mean its people had stopped considering themselves members of it.

This was a much bigger decision than I'd initially thought.

Still, I wasn't going to force them.

Even if they refused to join, I'd still be willing to help them evolve and grow stronger. Perhaps we could establish an alliance between our two tribes instead, allowing us to support each other and share resources.

After all, with the disaster approaching, having strong allies would be extremely valuable.

The stronger our allies were, the better our chances of surviving whatever was coming.

...

Meanwhile, the chieftain slowly turned his head and looked at his people.

His gaze swept across the familiar faces surrounding him, and a complicated mixture of emotions gradually appeared in his eyes.

After a long moment, he raised his head and gazed toward the sky.

Then, he let out a heavy sigh.

"Well... Even though I am your chieftain, my duty has always been to protect this tribe."

His remaining hand slowly curled into a fist.

"But I failed. So many of our people died because of my cowardice..."

"When those monsters attacked, fear overwhelmed me. I could barely think straight. All I could do was run, leaving my people behind."

"So... How can someone as terrible as me still call himself your chieftain?"

"I'm no longer worthy of that position."

His shoulders trembled as he shook his head bitterly.

"No... That's not true!"

A familiar voice suddenly interrupted him.

Gopuberry stepped forward, her small hands clenched tightly at her sides. Her expression was unusually serious, and her eyes were fixed firmly on the chieftain.

"It's not your fault that you fell victim to the spider's fear aura! We all did! If it weren't for our Lord's blessing, we might not even have been able to stand straight and look those monsters in the eyes, let alone fight them!"

"And yet..." Gopuberry continued. "... you still managed to find a way to resist that terrifying effect. Even when you were surrounded by those monsters, you kept fighting and did everything you could to lead our people to safety! You're worthy of everyone's respect, Chieftain!"

"Yeah! She's right!" Gopuro immediately chimed in. "You're hella strong, too! You're the strongest goblin I've ever seen!"

And not only my goblins, but other goblins from the Bright Red Nose tribe joined in too.

"Yeah! The chieftain is amazing!"

"You're still our chieftain!"

"We'll follow you wherever you go!"

One after another, they spoke up.

Then, the chieftain's daughter approached him. She gently placed her hand over his remaining arm and looked up at him.

"Please don't say that, father. None of us blame you for what happened. You really did your best."

The chieftain looked at her. His eyes slowly began to glisten.

He then turned toward his people, seemingly at a loss for words.

"Everyone..."

For a moment, he simply stared at them, taking in their expressions. Then, a faint smile appeared on his face.

It was a small smile, but one filled with warmth.

...Well, look at that.

Seems like his people really do care about him.

I couldn't help but feel a little moved by the scene.

The chieftain had clearly been carrying a tremendous amount of guilt. Perhaps he'd been blaming himself ever since the spider attack, convinced that he'd failed everyone who depended on him.

But his people didn't seem to share that opinion.

To them, he was still their leader.

And they still wanted to follow him.

After a while, the chieftain finally turned back toward Gopuran.

"If we join your Castle Tribe..." he began, his expression growing serious once more. "Will your Lord help us grow stronger, too?"

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

Chapter 114: Flexing The Benefits

"Of course!"

Gopuran immediately beamed.

"Our Lord the Big Boss is incredibly powerful! Once you join our tribe, you'll all be able to evolve into superior variants, just like us!"

"YEAH! Big Boss is the best!" Gopuro added excitedly.

As he spoke, the other Super Forest Goblins began showing off as well.

Gopugiga proudly puffed out his enormous chest, while Gopuflammy raised her arms to show off her well-developed muscles. Even Gopushadow, who was much slimmer than the others, struck a confident pose, casually twirling his dagger between his fingers.

They all looked incredibly pleased with themselves.

Haha... These guys.

They really love showing off, don't they?

Still, their confidence wasn't entirely unfounded. After all, they were living proof of what my evolution system could do.

The chieftain's eyes widened.

"Really? You can do that?"

"Of course!" Gopuro answered without hesitation.

"Even you, Chieftain! You can become an even stronger variant!"

"Huh? Me?"

The chieftain pointed at himself, looking rather surprised.

"That's right," Gopugiga added.

The enormous, bald goblin stepped forward, crossing his arms over his chest.

"Do you know how much weaker our original evolution line is? Once you join the Castle Tribe, you'll all be able to evolve into this superior variant!"

He gave his muscles another proud flex.

"Just look at us! We're much stronger than ordinary Forest Goblins!"

"That’s true," Gopuflammy said, nodding along.

Then she tilted her head and looked at the chieftain with a playful grin.

"Hey, Chieftain. Want to guess our levels?"

"Hmm... Your levels?"

The chieftain muttered as he examined the group carefully.

After thinking for a good ten seconds, he finally made his guess.

"Well, you guys are all mighty and powerful warriors. Your strength would easily match that of a lower-level Hulgagoblin."

He paused, considering their appearance and strength.

"So... Probably... Level 60 or something?"

"Hahaha! Nope!" Gopuro burst into laughter.

The others grinned as well.

"It’s much lower than that!" Gopuflammy said smugly.

"Hmm... I see."

The chieftain stroked his chin.

"If what you say is true, then your evolution variant must be considerably stronger than ours. It would make sense for you to have lower levels while still possessing comparable strength."

He pondered for a moment.

"Then... Level 40?"

"Kakaka! Wrong!" Gopuflammy laughed. "Forty is still way too high!"

"WHAT?!"

The chieftain’s eyes widened.

"Impossible!" Even the elderly shaman, who had been standing nearby, couldn’t help but exclaim in shock.

The other goblins gasped as well.

The chieftain looked over the group again.

"Then... Level 30?"

"Hmmm? Nope! Go lower!"

"HUHHHH?!"

The shaman’s jaw nearly dropped.

Meanwhile, the chieftain had started sweating. His expression grew increasingly strange, as though he were trying to make sense of something that completely contradicted everything he knew about the world.

"Don’t tell me..." He swallowed. "Level 20? It can’t be lower than 20, right?"

But Gopuflammy didn’t answer immediately.

Instead, she narrowed her eyes and wore an absolutely smug expression.

The other Super Forest Goblins did the same. They exchanged glances, clearly enjoying the chieftain’s reaction.

"Right???" the chieftain asked again.

...

However, nobody answered.

And honestly, that silence was probably answer enough.

The chieftain froze.

For a moment, he seemed to have completely lost the ability to speak.

Finally, Gopuflammy raised one finger.

"Level 14! I am Level 14!"

"..."

"Well, except for these two!" Gopushadow pointed his dagger toward Gopuro and Gopuran. "They’re Level 15 now. They were the first two members of the Castle Tribe, so they’ve had more time to grow than the rest of us."

"My god..."

The chieftain stared at them, his mouth hanging open in disbelief.

Then he looked at Gopuflammy again.

"Are you serious? Only Level 14 and 15? You're not lying to me, are you?"

"Kaka! It's all true!" Gopuro laughed. "Once you join our tribe, you'll find out for yourself!"

But the chieftain was still looking dumbfounded. He turned to other as well, almost as though he expected someone to suddenly reveal that this was all some kind of prank.

"So..." Gopuran finally stepped forward, smiling at him. "What's your decision? Interested?"

The chieftain remained silent for a moment.

Then...

"Hahahaha!"

He suddenly burst into laughter!

"Level 14? Yet you're as strong as Level 60? What the hell?!"

His shoulders shook as his enormous frame trembled with uncontrollable laughter. For a moment, I was genuinely worried that the guy might have somehow lost his mind.

Eventually, though, he managed to calm down.

His laughter gradually faded, and his expression softened.

When he spoke again, his voice was much quieter.

"Well... Even if there weren't such ridiculous benefits, I would still want my people to join your tribe."

"After all..." He glanced at the goblins surrounding him. "Our home has been destroyed. There is no Bright Red Nose Tribe anymore. These people have already suffered enough. If joining the Castle Tribe means they can live a better life, become stronger, and be protected by a powerful lord... Then I have no reason to refuse."

Finally, his gaze returned to Gopuran.

"Therefore... the answer is yes."

The chieftain slowly pushed himself to his feet.

Then, to everyone’s surprise, he suddenly dropped to the ground and prostrated himself before me.

The sight caught me completely off guard.

"Please, Great Lord Big Boss of the Great Castle Tribe! Please accept us, the remaining members of the Bright Red Nose Tribe!"

He pressed his forehead against the ground, his voice ringing throughout the courtyard.

"From this day forward, we shall pledge our loyalty to you and your tribe! We will follow your commands, fight alongside your people, and devote our strength to the growth of the Castle Tribe!"

...

I was speechless.

My god...

This guy...

He’s really sincere, isn’t he?

I couldn’t help feeling a little emotional.

From the beginning, the chieftain had always put his people first. Even after suffering such terrible injuries, his first concern had been their safety.

No wonder he’s their chieftain. He’s genuinely a good leader.

I almost felt like my heart was melting.

Well, technically, my core.

"Puro! Help him up."

I quickly sent a message to Gopuro.

"And tell him that I will do my best to protect and take care of him and his people. As long as they remain within my territory, I’ll do everything I can to give them a safe place to live and grow stronger."

Gopuro nodded immediately. He hurried over and helped the chieftain back to his feet.

Then, he relayed my message.

The chieftain listened quietly.

At first, his expression remained solemn. But as Gopuro continued speaking, his face gradually softened.

Finally, a bright smile appeared.

He straightened his back and turned toward his people.

"My people!"

His voice rang across the courtyard.

"From now on, there is no more Bright Red Nose Tribe! We shall join the Great Castle Tribe!"

The chieftain declared with a raised arm.

For a brief moment, silence fell.

Then...

"YEAAAAAAHHH!!!"

"LET'S GOOOOO!!!"

"LONG LIVE THE CASTLE TRIBE!"

"LONG LIVE OUR BIG BOSS!"

The courtyard erupted into cheers!

Some goblins raised their fists into the air, while others hugged their companions. A few even started jumping around excitedly, while the shaman danced.

Gopuro and Gopuflammy were particularly enthusiastic, shouting louder than anyone else.

Gopuran, meanwhile, simply smiled as she watched the newcomers celebrate.

Even the chieftain's daughter looked delighted. She grabbed her father's hand and smiled brightly, seemingly relieved that they finally had somewhere they could belong.

As for the chieftain...

He stood among his people, smiling as he watched their joyful reactions.

Hehe...

Looks like I've gained another loyal group of citizens.

And just like that, I'd managed to earn the chieftain's trust and secure the agreement of the entire Bright Red Nose Tribe.

With their leader's approval, the rest should be much easier.

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

Chapter 115: New Super Forest Goblins!

And so, I decided to start with the lower-level goblins first. More specifically, those below Level 10.

There were sixteen of them in total, and their citizenship costs were cheap enough for me to afford.

Alright! Let's get this done!

I opened my system interface and began offering them Castle Citizenship one by one.

Naturally, everyone accepted without hesitation.

Their chieftain had already agreed to join the Castle Tribe. There wasn't much reason for them to refuse.

The moment the first goblin accepted, a familiar series of notifications appeared before my eyes.

[DING! Congratulations!]

[You have successfully granted citizenship to a Level 8 Forest Goblin!]

[You have successfully granted citizenship to a Level 5 Forest Goblin!]

[You have successfully granted citizenship to a Level 7 Forest Goblin!]

[You have successfully granted citizenship to a Level 6 Forest Goblin!]

...

One notification after another appeared, each announcing the arrival of a new citizen. And before long, all sixteen goblins had officially become my citizens.

Hehe...

Welcome to the Castle Tribe, everyone!

But I wasn't finished yet.

Since I still had a decent supply of powerstones, I decided to take this opportunity to raise their levels as well.

Fortunately, goblins at such low levels didn't require many powerstones to level up. Most of them only needed one or two, while a few required three at most to reach Level 10.

Not a bad investment, really.

So, I distributed the powerstones among them and let them absorb the energy.

One after another, their levels began to rise.

And finally... all sixteen goblins reached Level 10!

Alright! Now comes the interesting part!

The moment they reached the required level, they began to evolve.

A dazzling light burst out from their bodies! Their entire forms were enveloped in a brilliant glow, illuminating the courtyard!

"Huh?!"

"What's happening?!"

"Help!"

"Why am I glowing?!"

The newcomers looked down at themselves in surprise. Some hurriedly raised their hands, while others stared at their bodies as the transformation began.

"Kaka, relax! That’s just the light of evolution!" Gopuro laughed., reassuring the new goblins.

And slowly, their physiques started changing right before everyone’s eyes.

Their bodies grew taller and broader, their muscles expanding and developing in real time. Their shoulders widened, their arms thickened, and their legs became noticeably more powerful. Even their facial features gradually changed, becoming sharper and more defined.

It was exactly the same transformation Gopuro and the others had experienced when they first evolved into Super Forest Goblins.

And this time... I had sixteen of them evolving simultaneously!

Woah....

The sight was actually pretty spectacular!

Even the chieftain couldn’t help but widen his eyes as he watched the transformation unfold. He stared at the glowing goblins, seemingly unable to believe what he was witnessing.

Then, another series of system notifications appeared.

[DING!]

[Congratulations! Your citizen has successfully evolved!]

[Congratulations! Your citizen has successfully evolved!]

[Congratulations! Your citizen has successfully evolved!]

...

The notifications kept appearing, one after another, until all sixteen transformations were complete.

And just like that... my Castle Tribe had gained sixteen new Super Forest Goblins!

****

Now....

As the dazzling light gradually faded, the newly evolved goblins began examining themselves.

Some flexed their arms, staring at their newly developed muscles. Others looked down at their legs, then touched their faces as though trying to confirm that they'd really changed.

A few even turned toward their companions, comparing their new physiques.

"Oh my god... " one of the newly evolved goblins exclaimed, staring at his reflection in a nearby puddle.

"So it's true! Our Lord really can evolve us into a stronger variant!" another goblin shouted, clenching his fists and looking at his arms in disbelief.

"Look at this! My body... It's completely different!"

"Man! I feel so powerful!"

Another goblin repeatedly opened and closed his fists, seemingly fascinated by the strength coursing through his body.

"It's like there's power flowing through my veins! I feel like I could crush a tree with my bare hands!"

Several others began testing their new strength as well.

One goblin tried jumping and nearly overshot his landing, while another swung his arms around so hard that he accidentally created a small gust of wind.

Their excitement was pretty contagious.

And needless to say, the chieftain and the elderly shaman were completely speechless. The two of them stood there, staring at the newly evolved goblins with wide eyes.

They'd already heard Gopuro and the others explain how powerful the Super Forest Goblin evolution was. But seeing sixteen goblins undergo the transformation right in front of them was an entirely different matter.

"Another miracle..."

The old shaman muttered.

Then, once again, he dropped to his knees and prostrated himself toward the castle.

"TRULY A MIRACLE! OUR GREAT LORD HAS BLESSED US ONCE AGAIN!"

Kaka... This old man really loves doing that, doesn't he?

Still, I couldn't complain. I was rather pleased with the result myself.

Meanwhile, Gopuro had already approached one of the newly evolved goblins. He gave the newcomer a firm pat on the shoulder, his face beaming with a friendly smile.

"Welcome to the tribe, brother!"

The newly evolved goblin looked at him.

"Un!"

He nodded firmly, clenching his fists with a determined expression.

"Let’s do our best and work hard for Big Boss!"

"Hahaha! That’s the spirit!" Gopuro laughed, giving him another friendly pat. "If we keep working hard, we’ll become even stronger!"

After that, the other members of my tribe began welcoming the newcomers as well.

Nice!

Looks like everyone’s getting along pretty well.

But while watching the newly evolved goblins, I began noticing something interesting.

Hmmmm...

Now that I had a much larger group of Super Forest Goblins to observe, I was starting to see a pattern.

There seemed to be four distinct physical types among them.

Of course, this was still just an observation based on their appearances and abilities. I couldn’t say for certain that my theory was correct yet.

Still, the differences were quite noticeable.

First, there was the Balanced Type.

This was probably the most aesthetically balanced build among the Super Forest Goblins.

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

Chapter 116: Four Different Builds

First, there was the Balanced Type.

Their bodies were tall and athletic, with well-developed muscles that were clearly visible without being excessively bulky. They had broad shoulders, narrow waists, and powerful limbs, giving them the appearance of well-trained warriors.

Most of them stood over two meters tall. In terms of physical proportions, they were almost identical to Gopuro, Gopuran, and Gopuflammy.

Basically, the standard Super Forest Goblin physique.

Then came the second type.

The Speed Type.

This was Gopushadow's build.

Compared to the other Super Forest Goblins, these goblins had smaller, leaner bodies. Their muscles were much less bulky, and their overall physiques were more slender. They were also slightly shorter.

However, what they lacked in raw physical strength, they more than made up for in speed and mobility.

Their movements were incredibly agile, and their bodies seemed naturally suited for rapid attacks, evasion, and sudden changes in direction.

In other words, they were probably born to be scouts, assassins, and fast-moving fighters.

Gopushadow was the perfect example. That guy was already ridiculously fast.

Then, the third was the Power Type.

And well... this one was pretty obvious.

It was practically Gopugiga's build.

These goblins possessed extreme muscular development, with enormous bodies and physiques that made them look almost like Hulgagoblins.

Their height could exceed three meters, and their muscles were so ridiculously developed that they almost resembled walking walls of flesh.

They possessed incredible physical strength, durability, and vitality.

However, there seemed to be a drawback.

Similar to Gopugiga, they all possessed the skill [Brute Strength], which greatly boosted their physical capabilities. On the other hand, their ability to use mana was considerably limited.

A fair trade-off, I suppose. They sacrificed some magical ability in exchange for raw physical power.

And more interestingly, most of the goblins with this build appeared to be male.

There was another rather peculiar characteristic, too...

They were all bald. Not a single strand of hair!

Their heads were completely smooth and shiny, almost like polished stones!

With this, my hypothesis that hair color and style might somehow reflect a goblin's magical abilities was becoming more convincing.

Especially when I looked at the final type.

The fourth type.

The Magic Type.

Or... at least, that's what I was hypothesizing.

These goblins had a noticeably different appearance from the other three types.

Their bodies were more slender, with softer and somewhat cuter facial features. Their muscles were less pronounced, and their overall physiques were much less intimidating.

However, there was something particularly striking about them.

Their hair.

Unlike the other types, whose hair was generally shorter and less vibrant, Magic Types seemed to have longer, more colorful hair.

Their eye colors were also unusually bright, and there appeared to be a connection between their hair and eye colors.

For example, blue-haired goblins tended to have blue eyes, while red-haired ones had red eyes.

They didn't seem to possess the overwhelming strength of the Balanced or Power Types, nor did they have the incredible speed of the Speed Types.

Instead, their greatest advantage seemed to lie in their mana capacity and magical abilities.

They possessed larger MP reserves and appeared to be naturally more suited to using magic-related skills.

This was Gopuberry's build.

...

Of course, this was only my current theory.

I'd need to gather a much larger population and examine everyone's status more carefully before drawing any definite conclusions.

Still, the differences were fascinating.

And as for the distribution...

The results were quite interesting.

Out of the sixteen new Super Forest Goblins, there were now:

Balanced Type: 6 goblins

Speed Type: 4 goblins

Power Type: 4 goblins

Magic Type: 2 goblins

So, the Balanced Type was the most common, followed by the Speed and Power Types.

The Magic Type, meanwhile, appeared to be the rarest.

Although... sixteen goblins were still a pretty small sample size. I couldn't rule out the possibility that there were other types I hadn't encountered yet, either.

Perhaps there were even rarer variations with completely different abilities or characteristics?

Or someone with mixed type?

Like... look at Gopuflammy...

She was clearly a balanced type, but still had such vibrant hair and a bit better magic related stats compared to others.

Hehe...

Now that's something really worth investigating!

******

Now that the lower-level goblins had finally become my citizens and successfully evolved, the remaining Hobgoblins and Hulkgoblins began looking toward my castle with hopeful eyes.

They'd witnessed the entire transformation with their own eyes. Naturally, they were eager to receive the same blessing.

"Please! Great Lord Big Boss of the Castle Tribe! Please accept us as your citizens, too!"

A nearby Hobgoblin suddenly dropped to his knees and shouted.

"Please let us join!"

"We want to become your citizens too!"

One after another, the others followed suit.

Some knelt, while others bowed their heads toward the castle. Their faces were filled with anticipation, and a few could barely contain their excitement.

After all, who wouldn't want to become stronger?

Meanwhile, Gopuro turned toward me.

"Big Boss?"

He tilted his head, looking at me expectantly.

"We're taking these guys in, too, right?"

"Haha, of course we are!" I replied through [Ruler's Voice]. "However... there's a small problem."

I then explained my current situation to him.

I was running low on Points, and I'd need to gather more before I could grant citizenship to the remaining goblins.

"Huh? Points?"

Gopuro scratched his head, looking rather confused.

"Ah, it's a form of energy I use to exercise my powers. I can generate a small amount every day, but most of it comes from you guys bringing me resources, such as wood and stone."

"Oooooh!"

Gopuro suddenly slapped his palm against his fist, as though he'd finally figured something out.

"So that's why you always tell me to chop so much wood! It's to help you get more power!"

"Haha, yeah! That's basically how it works."

"Kakaka!"

Gopuro laughed heartily.

"Understood!"

He flashed a confident grin and patted his chest.

"Don't worry, Big Boss! Leave it to me!"

With that, he turned around and raised his voice to get everyone's attention once again.

"ALRIGHT, EVERYONE! LISTEN UP!"

The goblins gradually quieted down and turned toward him.

"Don't worry! Our Big Boss will grant citizenship and evolve everyone!"

The moment they heard that, the goblins immediately relaxed.

"REALLY?!"

"YEAAAH!"

"THANK YOU, GREAT LORD!"

Their faces lit up with joy again.

However, Gopuro quickly raised one hand.

"BUT! There’s one small problem!"

...

The sudden announcement caused everyone to tense up again.

The Hobgoblins and Hulkgoblins exchanged worried glances, while the chieftain stepped forward.

"Please, what seems to be the problem?"

Gopuro scratched his cheek.

"Well, nothing too serious, actually."

He paused for a moment before continuing.

"Unlike the lower-level goblins, our Lord needs more divine energy to bestow his miraculous blessings upon stronger goblins. And right now, his divine energy reserves are running a little low."

"What?!"

The chieftain’s expression immediately changed.

"Divine energy?"

"Yeah!"

Gopuro nodded confidently.

"But there’s nothing to worry about! There are plenty of ways to restore our Lord’s divine energy!"

"Oh!"

The chieftain’s eyes lit up again.

"Then how can we help? Should we pray to the Great Lord? Or perhaps offer our blood as a sacrifice?"

"Huh?!"

Gopuro stared at him.

"Not like that!"

Fortunately, he quickly shook his head and continued.

"There’s no need for anything like that! It’s actually much easier!"

The elderly shaman stepped forward, his eyes shining with curiosity.

"Please, tell us! What must we do to restore our great Lord’s divine energy?"

Gopuro casually lifted his axe and rested it against his shoulder.

Then, he flashed a confident grin.

"It’s simple! Just chop down some trees and bring the wood back to our Big Boss!"

He pointed toward the forest beyond my territory.

...

For a moment, everyone went silent.

Then...

"OOOOOOOHHHH!"

The goblins suddenly gasped.

"That’s it?"

"Is it really that simple?" the chieftain asked, looking somewhat surprised.

"Yeah!" Gopuro nodded. "Just gather wood and bring it back to Big Boss. The more resources we provide, the more divine power our Lord can accumulate!"

...Well, technically, that’s not entirely wrong.

But calling it "divine energy"...

Haha... This guy...

Anyway, the chieftain seemed to find the explanation quite reasonable.

He stroked his chin for a moment before asking another question.

"And... how many trees do we need to chop down to restore enough energy? For something so divine... I suppose... thousands of trees?"

Gopuro paused.

Then he turned his head toward the castle.

"Ermmm... Big Boss?"

Kakakaka!

I couldn’t help but laugh.

Well, let’s see...

After checking my remaining resources and calculating how much wood I still needed, I finally gave him an answer.

"Not much, actually. Just... 200 trees!"

In truth, I only needed around 150 trees, but I figured it was better to ask for a little extra, just to be safe.

...

Gopuro blinked.

Then he turned back toward the others.

"Alright! Five hundred trees!"

...Huh?

"Hahaha! That’s easy!" the chieftain immediately laughed.

He looked around at his people, his expression growing more enthusiastic.

"Five hundred trees? With all of us working together, that’s nothing!"

He then raised his remaining arm and shouted at the top of his lungs.

"EVERYONE!"

The goblins immediately turned toward him.

"LET’S GO CHOP DOWN SOME TREES! WE NEED TO GATHER MORE DIVINE ENERGY FOR OUR GREAT LORD!!!"

"OOOOOOHHHH!!!"

"FOR THE GREAT LORD!"

"LET’S GET TO WORK!"

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

Chapter 117: Deforestation Night!

Oh my...

Little did I know, the next few minutes would turn into an absolute frenzy.

The moment the chieftain gave his order, the goblins roared with excitement before rushing out of my castle!

Even though it was already nighttime, none of them showed any intention of slowing down. Torches were quickly lit and carried toward the edge of my territory, illuminating the dark forest as the goblins prepared to get to work.

Apparently, the prospect of becoming an even stronger variant was more than enough to send them into a frenzy. They seemed to have completely forgotten how exhausted they should have been after the massive battle with the spiders earlier.

Some of them had barely recovered from their injuries, yet here they were, eagerly preparing to chop down hundreds of trees!

Well, I wasn’t going to stop them.

Since they were so motivated, I decided to let them work as they pleased, even if it meant gathering resources throughout the night.

There was just one small problem, though.

I could only provide them with a limited number of stone axes. That meant not every goblin would have one.

Well... I guess they’ll have to take turns.

But the next moment, I discovered that axes weren't even necessary.

The chieftain walked over to Gopuro and borrowed the [Blazing SkullCleaver] from him.

Then, he approached a cluster of trees, planted his feet firmly against the ground, and raised the enormous D-tier axe above his shoulder.

His muscles bulged as he gathered strength in his arms.

And then...

WOOOOSH!

A tremendous slash swept through the forest!

Before I could even process what had happened, more than ten trees had already been cut down!

...Huh? What the hell?!

The enormous trees crashed to the ground one after another, shaking the surrounding area.

That slash was absolutely ridiculous!

Meanwhile, the other goblins immediately rushed forward to process the fallen trees. Some removed the branches, while others chopped the trunks into manageable logs and carried them back toward my castle.

They worked together with surprising efficiency.

Of course, my goblins helped too.

In less than twenty minutes, every single log had been transported back into my territory!

[DING!]

[Resource Acquisition Successful!]

[Obtained: 1,347 Wood!]

...Holy shit.

So this is the power of twenty goblins working together?!

I stared at the notification in disbelief.

That was more than 1,300 Wood from a single round of work!

And the best part?

This was only the beginning!

The chieftain once again approached another cluster of trees, gripping the [Blazing SkullCleaver] firmly in his one hand.

He raised the axe.

Gathered his strength.

And swung!

BAM!

Another ten or so trees came crashing down!

The other goblins immediately got to work, processing the fallen trees and hauling the logs back into my territory.

[DING!]

[Resource Acquisition Successful!]

[Obtained: 1,254 Wood!]

HAHAHA!

This is amazing!

And just like that, the process repeated itself.

The chieftain performed two more slashes before apparently running out of mana and having to take a rest.

But that didn’t slow things down.

I simply handed the newly evolved Super Forest Goblins the Big Iron Axe and let them take turns unleashing [Big Slash] one after another.

And with sixteen new Super Forest Goblins...

BAM!

BAM!

BAM!

Sixteen more trees came crashing down!

Then, just as before, the other goblins worked together to process and transport the logs.

By the time they finished, the chieftain had already recovered enough mana to prepare another slash.

And just like that...

The process repeated.

Again.

And again.

And again!

With the chieftain and the Super Forest Goblins handling the heavy work while everyone else took care of processing and transporting the wood, their productivity was absolutely ridiculous.

Before I knew it, several hours had passed.

And the results were insane!

In just four hours, they had completely felled around three hundred trees!

[DING!]

[Resource Acquisition Successful!]

[Obtained: 1,254 Wood!]

[Total Wood: 34,678]

...

Holy mother of God.

More than thirty thousand Wood!

And considering the conversion rate, that was worth over 11,000 Points!

That was more than enough!

I'd originally expected to spend the entire night gathering resources, but these guys had managed to collect everything I needed in just four hours.

With that many Points, I could finally afford to grant citizenship to the remaining goblins!

Alright, everyone!

Looks like it's time for another round of evolution!

*****

[DING! Congratulations!]

[You have successfully granted citizenship to a Level 18 Forest Hobgoblin!]

[You have successfully granted citizenship to a Level 24 Forest Hobgoblin!]

[You have successfully granted citizenship to a Level 43 Forest Hulkgoblin!]

...

One notification after another appeared before my eyes.

And before long, every remaining goblin had officially become a citizen of my castle!

That included the chieftain and the elderly shaman as well.

[DING! Congratulations!]

[You have successfully granted citizenship to a Level 83 Forest Hulgagoblin!]

[DING! Congratulations!]

[You have successfully granted citizenship to a Level 63 Forest Hulgagoblin Shaman!]

....

Apparently, the old shaman was a Hulgagoblin too.

Considering his performance during our battle against the spiders, especially his powerful spells and extensive knowledge of magic, I'd already suspected that he was quite a high-level individual.

And just like that, the entire Bright Red Nose Tribe had officially become part of my Castle Tribe.

"Alright! Welcome to the Castle Tribe, Chieftain of the Bright Red Nose Tribe!"

I finally addressed them directly through my [Ruler's Voice] skill.

The moment he heard my voice, the chieftain froze.

"Wait... So this is the voice of our Ruler? The Big Boss?"

His eyes widened as he looked toward my castle.

"Such a magnificent voice!" the elderly shaman exclaimed, his expression filled with awe.

"Haha, thanks!"

I couldn't help feeling a little amused by their reactions.

Until now, I'd had to rely on Gopuro to relay most of my messages. It was quite inconvenient, honestly. Being able to communicate with everyone directly was definitely much better.

"Anyway, now that you've officially joined my tribe, the next step is to help you all evolve into stronger variants!"

"Yes!"

The chieftain's eyes immediately lit up.

"I'm ready now! Please do it!"

And honestly... I was just as excited!

Hehehe...

I wonder what kind of Super Forest Goblin this enormous chieftain will become.

Considering his incredible physical strength and combat abilities, I was particularly curious about what his new evolutionary form would look like.

But before I could begin, there was still something important I needed to explain.

My other skill...

[Devolution]!

*****

A few moments later...

It took me quite a while to explain everything to the chieftain, the shaman, and the other goblins.

After all, the concept wasn’t exactly simple.

"Hmmmm..."

The chieftain stroked his chin thoughtfully.

"So... in other words, our levels will be reduced when we change into this stronger evolutionary variant?"

"Yup," I replied. "Unfortunately, that’s how it works."

The goblins exchanged glances. Some looked a little worried, while others seemed to be thinking things over.

Well, I couldn’t really blame them.

They had spent years becoming stronger, accumulating experience, and improving their abilities. Naturally, the thought of losing all that progress wasn’t particularly appealing.

Fortunately, though...

It wasn’t quite as bad as they might have imagined.

My original [Devolution] skill worked like this:

[Devolution]

Type: Active

Description: Reverts a citizen to an earlier evolutionary variant. 30% of the accumulated EXP lost during devolution will be refunded in the form of Powerstones.

.....

Basically, when I used this skill, the target would return to an earlier evolutionary form, losing all the EXP they had accumulated along the way.

Well, they would still receive 30% of that lost EXP back in the form of Powerstones though. Not exactly a generous refund, but at least it was something.

The problem was that 30% wasn't a particularly good rate. And, more importantly, there was also a daily Powerstone consumption limit.

For someone like the chieftain, who was already Level 83, that could mean an enormous loss.

If he went through the original devolution process, most of his accumulated progress would simply disappear. It would take him a very, very long time to become as strong as he was now.

Compare that to someone like a Level 15 Hobgoblin reverting to a Level 10 Forest Goblin. The difference in lost experience would be enormous.

...

Well, fortunately, I'd recently upgraded the skill to Level 2.

And with that upgrade, something new had appeared!

A brand-new function had been added to the skill!

[Alternative option: Evolutionary Transmigration]

Type: Active

Description: Reverts a citizen to their earliest base evolutionary variant and then immediately allows them to undergo their evolutions again, following the most optimized and superior evolutionary path!

All EXP accumulated throughout the creature's lifetime will be preserved and transferred at 70% efficiency.

However, this process requires Points.

The stronger the creature undergoing an Evolutionary Transmigration, the more Points will be required to preserve its accumulated EXP.

...

Hehehe...

Now this is much better!

In other words, I could send my citizens back to their earliest evolutionary forms, allow them to evolve along a completely different path, and still preserve most of the EXP they'd accumulated throughout their lives!

Of course, there was a price to pay. The stronger the target, the more Points I would need to spend to transfer their EXP.

But considering the benefits, it was definitely worth it!

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

Chapter 118: Evolutionary Transmigration!

Now, how much would this new function cost?

I quickly checked the system's calculations.

For a Hobgoblin, using [Evolutionary Transmigration] was surprisingly cheap, costing only 5 to 10 Points.

For a Hulkgoblin, however, the price increased considerably, ranging from 50 to 100 Points.

And for the two strongest members of the Bright Red Nose Tribe...

The chieftain required 2,159 Points, while the shaman required 1,678 Points!

Hmm...

That's quite a lot.

Still, considering how much EXP they had accumulated, I could understand why the cost was so high.

Fortunately, after all that wood gathering, my Point reserves were more than sufficient. I could afford the process without any trouble.

But there was one thing I needed to confirm first.

Did they actually want to go through with it?

After all, this wasn't something I could simply decide on their behalf.

The chieftain turned toward the elderly shaman. The two exchanged a brief glance before nodding to each other.

"Yes, please do it! We wish to undergo this process!"

The chieftain spoke in a firm, determined voice.

"Hmmm... Are you sure?" I asked once more.

"Yes. We are certain!"

He then took a deep breath before explaining his reasoning.

"For us goblins, the level cap has always been 100, a Hulgagigogagoblin. There have been a few goblins throughout history who managed to reach that level, but none of them ever managed to go beyond it."

He paused, his expression turning thoughtful.

"I always believed it was simply the natural limit of our strength. But now that I think about it... perhaps it is only the limit imposed by our current evolutionary path."

His remaining hand slowly curled into a fist.

"If we can change our evolutionary path and become something entirely different, then perhaps... we can even change our fate?"

Oh?

That’s actually a pretty good way of looking at it.

"Absolutely!" Gopuro immediately chimed in. This guy had been particularly enthusiastic today. "Chieftain, you have to believe in Big Boss! Our Lord can make you much stronger!"

The chieftain nodded firmly.

"Alright."

I was satisfied with his answer.

"Now, what about the rest of you? Do the other Hobgoblins and Hulkgoblins wish to undergo the same process?"

"YES! PLEASE DO IT!"

They answered almost simultaneously, without the slightest hesitation.

Kakaka!

Good! Very good!

With everyone’s consent, I could finally begin.

"System, apply Special Devolution: [Evolutionary Transmigration] to all selected targets!"

[Roger!]

[Applying Evolutionary Transmigration!]

And just like that... the goblins selected for the process began to glow!

Light enveloped their bodies as their physiques gradually started shrinking. Their enormous muscles became smaller, their frames returned to their former proportions, and their appearances slowly reverted to earlier evolutionary stages.

*****

A few seconds later...

The five Hobgoblins were the first to complete the process. Their bodies had returned to their original Forest Goblin forms.

However, something else had appeared beside each of them.

A small, glowing orb floated in the air, resembling a blob of condensed light. I assumed these were their accumulated EXP, extracted and preserved during the devolution process.

Meanwhile, the remaining 30% that couldn’t be transferred scattered into countless tiny particles before gradually disappearing.

The glowing orbs then drifted toward their respective owners.

One by one, they merged back into the goblins’ bodies.

And immediately... they evolved!

Their bodies grew larger again, their muscles developed, and their physiques gradually changed into the Super Forest Goblin form!

It didn’t take long before all five completed their evolution.

And just like that, five new Super Forest Goblins were born! Three of them were Balanced Types, while the other two were one Power Type and one Speed Type.

The goblins looked down at their newly acquired bodies in amazement. Some clenched their fists, while others flexed their arms, seemingly fascinated by their improved physiques.

"Woah... This evolutionary line is truly superior!"

The Speed Type guy exclaimed as he repeatedly opened and closed his hands.

"Yeah! I feel so much stronger already, even though my level dropped so much!"

Another goblin nodded excitedly. He was now sporting the huge, bulky physique of a Power Type.

Kakaka!

Of course! That's exactly what you'd expect from a superior evolution!

Still, their final levels were rather interesting.

Despite having transferred 70% of their accumulated EXP, none of them had managed to reach even Level 13.

The highest was the former Level 23 Hobgoblin, who had only reached Level 12.

The other four were Level 10 or 11.

Hmm...

That's quite a drop.

But it made sense.

Even though they had preserved most of their EXP, the difference between their previous evolutionary forms and the Super Forest Goblin was apparently quite substantial.

Still, this was only the beginning.

Now, what about the Hulkgoblins?

I turned my attention toward the three enormous goblins waiting nearby.

Their original levels were considerably higher.

One was Level 28.

Another was Level 35.

And the strongest among them was Level 41.

Hmmm...

I wonder how much EXP they'll have left after the transfer.

More importantly, would any of them manage to reach the next evolutionary checkpoint?

I doubted it, though.

After all, the next evolution for Super Forest Goblins required Level 25.

And soon, I got my answer.

The three Hulkgoblins finished absorbing their respective EXP orbs and completed their transformations.

The former Level 28 Hulkgoblin had reached Level 14.

The former Level 35 Hulkgoblin had reached Level 16.

And finally...

The strongest of the three, who had previously been Level 41, was only able to reach Level 18!

...

Well, that's a little disappointing.

All three had successfully become Super Forest Goblins, but none of them had even come close to Level 25. Apparently, that was the next evolutionary checkpoint.

I really wanted to see what came after Super Forest Goblin, though.

Still, considering how much stronger they had become despite their reduced levels, I couldn't really complain.

And now...

There were only two goblins left.

The chieftain and the elderly shaman!

*****

Unlike the other goblins, whose devolution and evolution processes had been completed in less than a minute, these two were taking considerably longer.

In fact, more than half an hour had already passed!

...Good grief.

Just how much EXP have these two accumulated?

Their glowing EXP orbs were enormous!

The spheres had grown into gigantic balls of light, floating beside their respective owners. The shaman's orb was over two meters in diameter, while the chieftain's was literally twice that size!

Meanwhile, the chieftain and the shaman had already returned to their original Goblin Form and had long since finished evolving once into Super Forest Goblins.

Their bodies continued changing as they absorbed more and more EXP.

From what I could tell, the chieftain was developing along the Balanced Type path, while the shaman appeared to be following the Magic Type.

Then, just as I was wondering whether they would be able to break through the Super Forest Goblin stage and reach the next evolution...

Suddenly, both goblins began rising into the air, as though an invisible hand had lifted them a meter above the ground!

"Woah?!"

"What's happening?!"

The surrounding goblins watched in astonishment.

Meanwhile, the silhouettes of the chieftain and the shaman began glowing brighter and brighter.

Until finally...

SHAAANGGG!

A blinding ring of light suddenly burst outward!

The brilliance illuminated the entire courtyard, forcing the nearby goblins to shield their eyes.

As for me?

Well... I was a castle. A little light wasn't going to blind me!

I continued watching the two figures with great anticipation.

Oh wow...

Could it be?

They actually made it?!

They reached pass level 25?

And then, the notification came.

[DING!]

[Congratulations!]

[Your citizen has successfully evolved!]

[New Variant: Mega Forest Goblin!]

OOOOOOH!

MEGA FOREST GOBLIN?!

So that's what comes after Super Forest Goblin!

HAHAHAHA!

System! You really don't have a good naming sense, do you?

But apparently... the process still wasn't over!

Another notification appeared.

[DING!]

[Your citizens are now selecting their specialized evolutionary path!]

...Huh?

Specialized.... Evolutionary Path?

What’s going on now?

Before I could fully process the notification, the two glowing silhouettes began changing again. And this time, the differences between them were impossible to miss!

The chieftain’s silhouette grew considerably larger.

His already enormous frame expanded further, his muscles becoming even more imposing. His hair also began growing longer and spikier, spreading outward in wild, jagged strands.

Even from a distance, I could sense the tremendous pressure radiating from his body. And I could’ve sworn I heard some kind of roaring sound effect coming from him, almost like the growl of a terrifying beast.

Meanwhile, the shaman’s transformation was completely different.

His silhouette remained roughly the same size, but countless tiny arcs of lightning began crackling around his body!

ZAP! ZAP! ZAP!

His long hair flowed behind him, moving as though carried by an invisible current.

Then, two glowing horns slowly began forming on his head.

CRACKLE!

A bolt of lightning suddenly shot from his body and struck the ground nearby!

"KYAAAA!"

Several goblins jumped backward in fright.

Even Gopuro instinctively took a step away.

And then, came a ring of fire!

Fwooom!!!

His body was now emitting both fire and lightning!

...Holy crap.

What kind of evolution is this?!

Double attribute???

One was becoming an enormous, intimidating powerhouse, while the other was practically turning into a walking fire-thunderstorm!

Reincarnated as a Castle - (LitRPG, Kingdom Building, Progression) Chapter 119 -

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

Chapter 119: Tempest Shaman

And then, the process continued. The shaman was the first to finish absorbing his accumulated EXP.

[DING!]

[Congratulations! Your citizen has successfully chosen a new specialized evolutionary path!]

[Current Specialized Evolutionary Path: Tempest Shaman!]

OOOOOH!

Tempest Shaman?!

I couldn’t help getting excited!

As the blinding light gradually faded, the shaman’s body slowly descended toward the ground. And finally, I could get a proper look at his new appearance.

And...

Holy shit...

Is this really the same old, wrinkly goblin shaman from before?!

His entire appearance had changed!

All traces of his former elderly appearance had vanished, replaced by an incredibly handsome and powerful-looking male figure.

His face was youthful and well-defined, with sharp features and a rather imposing gaze. His body was slender but athletic, with clearly defined muscles and a set of six-pack abs. Even his skin looked flawless, as though he hadn't experienced a single wrinkle in his entire life!

And his hair...

It was now long and flowing, predominantly white with several striking red streaks running through it.

Two small, slightly demonic-looking and pitchblack horns had also emerged from his forehead, giving him an unusually intimidating appearance.

Meanwhile, several glowing markings had appeared across his body. They resembled ancient runes or arcane glyphs, illuminating his skin with magical energy.

...

Seriously, the transformation was ridiculous!

Gone was the image of a frail, elderly tribal shaman who needed a skull-topped staff to support himself.

In his place now stood a handsome, powerful-looking wizard! He practically radiated the aura of a high-level spellcaster!

And needless to say, everyone else was just as speechless.

The surrounding goblins stared at him with wide eyes and gaping mouths, seemingly unable to recognize the person standing before them.

Even the shaman himself seemed stunned.

He slowly raised both hands, examining his fingers before touching his face and chest. Then, he reached up and ran his fingers through his long hair, as though he were still trying to process what had happened.

Anyway, I couldn't contain my curiosity any longer.

I immediately activated [Eye of the Overlord] and checked his new status.

[Citizen Status]

Name: Unnamed (Designation Required)

Race: Mega Forest Goblin

Specialized Evolutionary Path: Tempest Shaman

Sex: Male

Rank: ★★★

Level: 25

Vital Status

- HP: 2,500 / 2,500

- MP: 885 / 885

- Stamina: 2,500 / 2,500

Core Attributes

- Attack: 30

- Defense: 50

- Magic Attack: 146

- Magic Defense: 103

- Magic Capacity: 160

- Speed: 20

Skill List

- Carnivorism Lv. 1

- Regeneration Lv. 2

- Arcane Mastery Lv. 2

- Fire Mastery Lv. 3

- Light Mastery Lv. 3

- Lightning Mastery Lv. 1

- Dark Mastery Lv. 1

- Healing Touch Lv. 2

- Voodoo Lv. 2

- Spirit Sense Lv. 1

- Potion Mastery Lv. 2

- Crafting Lv. 3

****

I stared at the status screen for a long while, trying to take in all the information at once.

Holy...

So this is what a Mega Forest Goblin's stats look like?

This is ridiculous!

His core attributes were incredibly high. Considering that a normal Super Forest Goblin gained around 10 points across their core attributes per level, I had expected a Level 25 Super Forest Goblin to have around 200 to 250 combined attribute points at most.

But this guy's total was already nearly double what I'd expected!

Could it be that the accumulated stats double after the next evolution?

Now that was an interesting thought.

And furthermore... just look at his MP and all those magic-related attributes!

They were ridiculously high!

Obviously, he was a Magic Type. Duh!

I currently had no idea how powerful a spell cast with these kinds of stats would be. None of my other goblins could use magic, after all. But I was pretty sure this guy could cause some serious explosions.

And with 885 MP, he'd be able to spam quite a few spells! As expected of a magic-oriented evolutionary path!

Hehehe...

I could even give him the Big Iron Axe and have him spam [Big Slash] forty times in a row to cut down trees!

Well... that would be a rather terrible misuse of his abilities.

But still!

Anyway, moving on to his skills...

First of all, I'd already expected him to acquire something like Fire Mastery and Lightning Mastery, considering the elemental effects he'd displayed during his evolution.

But to think he could master so many different elements!

Fire Mastery Lv. 3

Light Mastery Lv. 3

Lightning Mastery Lv. 1

Dark Mastery Lv. 1

Each elemental mastery granted 10% spell amplification and 5% resistance to its respective element.

That meant a single individual wasn't necessarily limited to just one elemental attribute!

That's a pretty nice finding.

But there was something else that caught my attention.

[Arcane Mastery Lv. 2]

Description: The user has mastered the arcane arts and gained a deeper understanding of the flow of magic. This allows them to control mana and perform magical skills more efficiently. The user can also draw magical energy from external sources, such as Powerstones and Elemental Stones, and convert it into their own mana.

Effects at Level 2:

Reduces the mana cost of all spells by 20%.

Grants 20% universal spell amplification.

Increases the efficiency of drawing magical energy from external sources by 10%.

....

Oh?

Now this was an excellent skill!

Not only would it make him a more powerful spellcaster, but it would also allow him to conserve mana and cast even more spells.

The ability to draw out magical energy from magical sources seemed to be very useful indeed.

That aside, I assumed [Healing Touch Lv. 1] was the same ability he'd used to heal the chieftain during our previous battle.

[Healing Touch Lv. 2]

Type: Active

Effect: Continuously drains the user's mana to restore the target's HP.

Cost: Variable, up to a maximum of 10 MP per second.

Healing Efficiency: 10 HP per 1 MP.

....

Hmm...

That was actually pretty useful.

At maximum output, he could restore 100 HP per second. And with his current MP pool, he could potentially heal anyone here from the brink of death all the way back to full health in less than 5 minutes!

And then, there was this one.

[Voodoo Lv. 2]

Description: Allows the user to perform basic voodoo rituals. The higher the skill level, the more advanced rituals the user can perform.

...

Unfortunately, that was a rather vague description.

Still, I had a feeling that the Sacred Blood Transfusion ritual we'd used to save the chieftain was one of those basic voodoo rituals.

If so, what other kinds of rituals could this guy perform?

Could he cast curses? Summon spirits? Perhaps even conduct some kind of strange magical ceremony?

Now I'm curious.

With this kind of magical aptitude and such a diverse collection of skills, the old shaman had become quite an impressive spellcaster.

And I hadn't even seen the full extent of his abilities yet.

I really wanted to find out what else he could do. This would definitely require a few more experiments.

****

Now...

The shaman's hands were trembling, and his entire body seemed to be shaking with excitement.

I could practically feel how eager he was to test out his newly acquired magical abilities.

And of course, I was just as curious!

Thus...

"Shaman, how about you cast a simple spell? Let's see just how powerful you've become after your evolution!"

"Oh!"

The shaman's eyes widened as he realized what I was suggesting. Then, a huge grin spread across his face.

Yeah... He's definitely excited.

"Well, if you say so, Big Boss..."

The shaman stepped outside the castle and turned to face the forest.

Instantly, everyone followed him out, gathering around to watch. They were just as curious as I was to see what a Mega Forest Goblin with the Tempest Shaman evolutionary path could do.

The shaman raised his skull-topped staff.

Previously, it had looked like a rather ordinary walking stick. But now that he'd become so much taller and more imposing, the staff looked almost like an oversized wand in his hands.

Everyone fell silent.

The shaman slowly raised one hand, pointing the tip of his staff toward the sky.

And then...

The wind began to howl.

A strange current of air swept across the clearing, making the goblins' clothes and hair flutter. At the same time, countless red magical particles suddenly appeared out of nowhere, gathering around the tip of his staff.

They began swirling faster and faster, forming a dense vortex of magical energy.

The skull ornament's eye sockets suddenly flared with a fiery red light.

And then...

The shaman's eyes lit up with the same crimson glow!

"Fireball."

He said calmly.

But what happened next was anything but simple!

A gigantic sphere of swirling flames suddenly materialized above his staff!

It was freaking enormous!

The fireball was roughly the size of a truck, with layers of blazing flames rotating around its surface. Its intense heat spread across the surrounding area, scorching the air and making the nearby goblins instinctively retreat.

For a moment, it felt as though a miniature sun had suddenly appeared!

But before I could even finish processing what I was seeing, the shaman flicked his staff.

The gigantic fireball shot upward like he just shot a missle!

It climbed higher and higher, leaving a trail of blazing light behind it. Clouds parted as the fireball blasted through them.

Then...

BOOOOOOM!!!

An enormous explosion erupted in the sky!

The entire area was illuminated by a blinding flash of red and orange. A tremendous shockwave spread outward, and even though the explosion had occurred high above us, I could still feel the rumbling through my castle foundations.

The heat was so intense that the air itself seemed to ripple.

For a brief moment, the sky looked as though it had been swallowed by a sea of flame.

...

For a moment, I was speechless.

Damn.

That’s nasty!

I stared at the fading flames in disbelief.

If he had directed that spell toward my castle instead...

Yeah.

I’m not even sure whether I’d survive that shit.

"Oh, wait a minute!"

I suddenly remembered something and immediately checked his status.

More specifically, his remaining MP.

MP: 845 / 885

...

HOLY!

A spell of this caliber, and it only cost 40 MP?!

What the hell???

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

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

Chapter 120: Magic Demonstration

That fireball was absolutely awesome!

With someone of this caliber on my side, I suddenly felt that my chances of surviving when those spiders eventually came for me had increased considerably.

In fact, that enormous soul-eating spider boss from before didn't seem quite so terrifying anymore. Perhaps with one or two fireballs, the shaman could take it down rather easily now.

Meanwhile, the shaman slowly lowered his staff, looking just as dumbfounded by his own magical power.

His hands were still trembling as he stared at them.

"Did... did I really cast that spell?"

He seemed almost unable to believe what he'd just done.

And the others?

They were just as amazed.

"Damn..." Gopuro muttered, staring at the sky.

"That was such a huge explosion!" Gopuflammy exclaimed, her eyes wide with amazement.

The other goblins were also struggling to process what they had just witnessed.

Then, all of a sudden...

"Shaman! Please cast another spell!"

Gopushadow was the first to shout.

And immediately, the others joined in!

"YEAH!"

"Please cast another spell!"

"Let us witness your true power!"

The clearing quickly became noisy again as everyone eagerly urged the shaman to continue.

"Well, actually..." The shaman grinned. "There's something else I've been wanting to try anyway!"

As he spoke, he turned toward the forest and pointed his staff in that direction.

He slowly closed his eyes.

Then...

ZAP! ZAP! ZAP!

Tiny sparks of lightning began running across his body!

The electricity gathered around his two horns, crackling and flickering. Even the air seemed to grow charged with energy, making the hair on the nearby goblins' heads stand on end.

A few of them instinctively took a step backward.

And then, the shaman opened his eyes!

"Thunderbolt!"

CRACK!

A bolt of lightning shot out from the tip of his staff!

It was so fast that I almost missed it!

There was barely enough time to see a flash of white-blue light before the lightning struck a nearby tree.

BOOOOM!!!

The tree literally exploded!

Its trunk shattered into thousands of fragments, sending splinters and chunks of wood flying in every direction. The bark was instantly charred black, and thick smoke rose from the remains with a faint sizzling sound.

A few smaller branches continued falling to the ground, while the surrounding vegetation trembled from the impact.

...

Holy crap!

That was another impressive spell!

Of course, considering his Lightning Mastery was only Level 1, I supposed his lightning magic wasn't quite as powerful as his fire spells yet.

But even so, that single attack should already be powerful enough to kill a fully grown Colossal Bear, or perhaps even an ordinary Dark Giant Spider!

And the mana cost...

I checked, and...

Wow!

Only 10 MP?!

That's ridiculously cheap!

Compared to that enormous Fireball, this spell barely consumed any mana at all.

Which meant he could cast it over and over again without worrying too much about running out of mana!

Hehehe... Now that's what I call a spammable skill!

However... there was now one small problem.

The tree he'd struck was apparently close enough to some dry vegetation that the lightning had started a small fire.

Flames were spreading across the nearby grass and bushes, gradually growing larger as they consumed the dry leaves. A thin trail of smoke was already rising above the trees.

I was just about to order the goblins to fetch water from the well and put it out when the shaman raised his staff again.

He gave it a casual wave.

And then...

WOOOOOSH!

The flames were suddenly pulled away from the ground!

They rose into the air in a swirling stream of fire, twisting and spiraling toward the shaman before being sucked straight into the skull ornament at the tip of his staff.

Within seconds, the entire patch of burning vegetation had been extinguished.

...

"Wait a minute! Shaman! You can do that too?!"

"Huh? Of course, Big Boss!" he replied, looking rather surprised by my question. "This is just basic fire control!"

Huh?

Just... basic fire control?

Excellent!

With a powerful spellcaster like him around, my castle and the other buildings would be completely immune to fire!

****

And just like that, the shaman continued demonstrating his newly acquired abilities.

He cast several more spells, including a few flashy fireballs and lightning bolts. Each one displayed a different level of destructive power, and the surrounding goblins watched with growing excitement.

But the most fascinating spells were yet to come.

First, there was his Light attribute magic.

With a gentle wave of his staff, the shaman created several small animals made entirely of pure light. A beautiful deer, a few birds, and even a little rabbit appeared before us, their bodies glowing with a soft golden radiance.

And they moved just like real animals!

The deer leisurely wandered around the courtyard while the birds fluttered above our heads. Their movements were so natural that, for a moment, they almost looked like spirits that had descended from some magical realm.

Even though the only use for this spell was to illuminate the space, it’s still an absolutely beautiful spell, a completely different kind of magic from his destructive fire and lightning spells.

But then came his Dark attribute magic.

Unlike the gentle creatures made of light, this spell was considerably more sinister. The shaman pointed his staff at a volunteer, who happened to be Gopuro for some reason.

Then...

"Dark Veil."

Gopuro’s eyes suddenly turned black.

"Aaaa! I can’t see!!!" the poor guy screamed in panic.

Just like that, he’d made Gopuro blind! Unable to see a single thing!

Fortunately, the effect was only temporary and lasted a few seconds. But still... that was a rather nasty little spell.

Needless to say, this shaman had become an absolute powerhouse!

But then, I suddenly realized something.

...Wait a minute.

Lightning?

I quickly recalled the Elemental Stones available in my system shop.

At the moment, there were only six types:

Fire, Water, Earth, Nature, Light and Darkness.

But what about Lightning?

There wasn’t a Lightning Elemental Stone in my shop!