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

Chapter 121: Specialized Evolutionary Paths

Hmm...

I started considering a few possibilities.

Could Lightning actually be a combination of two or more elements?

For example... Fire + Light = Lightning?

Or perhaps Lightning was an entirely separate and more advanced elemental attribute? Like... would there be the element of space or time too?

I couldn’t help becoming curious.

Thus, I decided to ask him.

"Hey, Shaman."

"Yes, Big Boss?"

"About your lightning spells... How exactly do you use them? I mean, is there actually a Lightning Mana Attribute?"

"Hmmmm..."

The shaman furrowed his brows, seemingly trying to organize his thoughts.

"Actually... about that, there’s something I received when I evolved into this Tempest Shaman variant."

Oh?

"Really? Can you tell me what happened during your evolution?"

"Of course!"

And so, the shaman began explaining what he’d experienced.

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As it turned out, the evolution process had been considerably more interesting than I’d imagined.

According to the shaman, after he evolved into the next evolutionary tier, Mega Forest Goblin, he suddenly found himself standing in a vast, empty space.

He was hovering above what appeared to be an enormous lake.

The water beneath him was incredibly deep, so deep that he couldn’t see the bottom at first. But when he looked more carefully, he noticed countless enormous stones resting beneath the surface.

Each stone was carved with strange symbols. Some had simple patterns, while others were covered in complicated magical inscriptions.

Then, all of a sudden...

More than a dozen of those stones began glowing!

One after another, they activated and slowly rose from the depths, breaking through the surface of the water before floating in the air.

And then... a mysterious voice suddenly rang inside his head.

It instructed him to choose one of the stones.

Naturally, the shaman approached them.

As he examined the stones, he discovered that each one represented a different specialized evolutionary path he could choose.

For example...

There was a Pyromancer.

A Shadow Healer.

A Spirit User.

And many others.

Apparently, seemed like the available choices were determined by his existing knowledge, abilities, and accumulated power.

But there was another interesting detail.

The stones didn’t all glow with the same color!

Some were green, emitting a rather faint glow. Others were blue, shining considerably brighter.

And then there were the purple ones. Those were the brightest of all.

After examining the available choices, the shaman eventually selected the one that resonated with him the most.

The Tempest Shaman.

That particular stone was glowing purple.

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Woah!

Now that’s actually really interesting!

I finally had a better idea of what had happened during the evolution process.

Basically, the system had presented him with a selection of specialized evolutionary paths, each represented by a different magical stone.

And judging by their colors... it seemed that the stones represented different rarity levels!

Hehehe...

This is just like a game!

Green could represent Common.

Blue could represent Rare.

And Purple could represent Epic or Unique!

Of course, I didn’t know whether that was exactly how the system worked, but it seemed like a reasonable assumption.

Moreover, this discovery gave me two very important things to think about.

First...

I would need to explain this entire process to my other goblins before they reached Level 25. Now that I knew what awaited them at the next evolutionary tier, I could help them prepare in advance.

They shouldn’t simply pick the first evolutionary path they saw, or pick them randomly. Instead, they needed to examine every available option and, whenever possible, choose one with the highest rarity.

After all, if the rarity system worked the way I suspected, choosing a purple stone would likely result in a much stronger evolutionary path than choosing a green one or blue one.

Meanwhile... I also wondered whether their existing abilities and skills could really influence which stones appeared too.

And that brought me to the second, much more important point.

According to the shaman, there had been many other stones beneath that enormous lake.

More than a dozen had appeared during his selection, but there were clearly many more waiting below the surface! Probably hundreds of them!

Which meant there could be countless specialized evolutionary paths that I hadn’t even discovered yet.

Therefore, I needed to learn about them all.

Ideally, I wanted to understand the conditions required to unlock each specialized evolutionary path.

For example, the shaman had managed to obtain the Tempest Shaman path.

But why?

Was it because of his extensive magical knowledge? His mastery of multiple elements? His experience with voodoo rituals? Or perhaps a combination of all those factors?

Or could it be that he had simply been struck by lightning when he was younger?

If I could figure out the exact requirements, then I'd be able to produce many more Tempest Shamans in the future!

Yeah!

Imagine having an entire group of these guys!

A squad of powerful spellcasters, each capable of throwing truck-sized fireballs and blasting monsters apart with lightning! That would be incredible!

But there was one more thing that made me even more excited.

What if purple isn't the highest rarity?

What if there are even better ones?!

For all I knew, there could be golden stones representing Legendary evolutionary paths!

Or perhaps even red stones representing Mythical ones!

If so, just how powerful would those evolutionary paths be?

I suddenly found myself looking forward to the next batch of goblins reaching their evolution threshold.

There was still so much more to discover!

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I continued watching the shaman's flashy display of magic while all sorts of exciting theories about those specialized evolutionary paths kept running through my head.

There were so many possibilities!

And before I knew it... the last goblin had finally completed his evolution!

A wave of blinding light suddenly burst across the courtyard, drawing everyone's attention.

The shaman immediately stopped his demonstration.

The other goblins also turned around and rushed back toward the castle, eager to witness the chieftain's final transformation.

And then...

[DING!]

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

[Current Specialized Evolutionary Path: Hell Berserker!]

Chapter 122: Reaction

"What?! Hell Berserker?"

I had no idea what this new evolutionary form was capable of yet, but the name alone sounded incredibly badass!

However, when it came to his appearance...

Unlike the shaman, whose appearance had changed almost completely after evolving into his new evolutionary line, the chieftain didn’t seem to have changed all that much compared to his former Hulgagoblin self.

He still had the same massive physique and bulging muscles. The most noticeable difference was his hair, which had turned a fiery red. It was thick, wild, and incredibly long, reaching all the way down to his waist. Combined with his enormous build, it gave him an especially imposing appearance.

His face, on the other hand, had undergone a rather remarkable transformation. He had become considerably more handsome, no longer carrying the ugly features he once had, such as his oversized nose, enormous yellow tusks, and all those pimples and other imperfections.

Still, he hadn’t lost any of his intimidating presence.

Most notably, his eyes retained that same powerful, commanding aura, with crimson irises that seemed to burn like flames. Just like the shaman, several glowing red markings had also appeared across his body, running along his muscles like strange magical tattoos.

I supposed these glowing markings were a common feature among Mega Forest Goblins, something that distinguished them from their Super Forest Goblin counterparts.

However, unlike what I'd expected, the chieftain hadn't grown any horns.

I was also a little disappointed to see that his severed arm hadn't been restored. Even after evolving into such a powerful form, he was still left with only his right arm.

Though... I suppose expecting evolution to regrow an entire limb might have been a little too much.

"Chieftain, how are you feeling?" I asked.

"Big Boss, I feel absolutely amazing!" the chieftain immediately replied with a hearty laugh. "So refreshing! So incredible! I've never felt this much power coursing through my body before!"

His voice rang out with the mighty roar of a giant beast. Even without trying, he seemed capable of making the entire courtyard tremble with his presence.

Just then, another goblin stepped forward. A rather handsome one, actually.

"Chieftain... Congratulations! This is wonderful!"

The one who spoke was none other than the shaman.

However, the chieftain didn't seem to recognize him at first.

"Huh? And you are...?" he asked, staring at the shaman in confusion.

"It's me! The shaman!"

The shaman immediately dropped to one knee and bowed his head.

"I’m your most loyal shaman! Congratulations on your successful evolution, Chieftain!"

The other members quickly followed suit, all dropping to their knees.

"Congratulations, Chieftain!!!"

The chieftain was visibly moved by the sight, but his expression soon shifted back to confusion as he looked at the shaman.

"What?! You’re the shaman? Impossible! The shaman was an old goblin with a long beard and no hair! How could you possibly be so young and handsome?!"

"Haha! It’s all thanks to the miraculous blessing bestowed upon us by our Lord!" the shaman laughed. "After evolving into this new variant, not only have I regained my youth, but I’ve also received tremendous new powers!"

"What?!"

The chieftain still couldn’t believe his eyes. He stepped forward and helped the shaman back to his feet, examining him from head to toe.

"Are you telling the truth? You’re really the shaman?!"

The shaman nodded tearfully.

Then, he held out his staff.

"Look! This is my staff! Don’t tell me you don’t recognize it!"

The chieftain glanced at the staff, and his eyes widened.

Just then, another Super Forest Goblin stepped forward.

"It’s true, father!"

She was a beautiful female Super Forest Goblin with a short, stylish brown haircut and a tall, well-built figure.

"Y-You are...?" the chieftain stammered.

"It’s me! Your daughter!"

At those words, the chieftain’s entire body began to tremble.

He looked around once more, finally taking in the appearance of everyone standing before him.

Every single member of the Bright Red Nose Tribe had now become a powerful Super Forest Goblin. Both the young men and women stood tall and strong, their former appearances almost completely transformed.

Even his own daughter, who had once been a small and frail Hobgoblin with an injured leg, now looked like a healthy, capable warrior.

"Hahaha! Wonderful! This is wonderful!"

The chieftain exclaimed, his laughter echoing throughout the courtyard.

He then turned toward the shaman and gave him a hearty pat on the shoulder.

"Shaman! Congratulations! I guess no more aching backs or stiff necks for you!"

"Hahaha!" the shaman burst into laughter. "At this rate, I might even be able to take another woman and have more children!"

His words immediately sent the surrounding goblins into an uproar of laughter.

"Not bad, you old geezer!"

The chieftain shook his head with a laugh, giving the shaman another pat on the shoulder.

However, his expression soon turned serious, and he let out a sigh.

"Alright, everyone. Get back on your feet."

Everyone promptly stood up, their faces still beaming with smiles.

But the chieftain wasn’t finished.

"Didn’t we already agree on this? From now on, the Bright Red Nose Tribe no longer exists. We’ve become members of the Castle Tribe. So why are you still calling me Chieftain and kneeling before me?"

Hearing that, everyone widened their eyes.

They finally realized their mistake.

"From now on, there is no more chieftain! We’re all brothers! We’re all members of the Castle Tribe, and we serve Big Boss together! Anyone who calls me Chieftain again, I’ll beat your ass!"

"Yes, Chieftain!" the goblins immediately responded.

The chieftain’s face instantly scrunched up.

"YOU..."

He looked as though he was about to explode.

I couldn’t help but chuckle before stepping in.

"Hey! It’s fine." I said. "They’re already used to calling you Chieftain, after all! There’s no harm in letting them continue!"

After all, old habits weren’t exactly easy to break. Besides, it wasn’t as though the title itself would cause any problems.

The chieftain could only let out an awkward laugh.

"Well... If Big Boss says so, then I suppose I can’t complain!"

Just then, Gopuro stepped forward as well.

"Big Boss, why don’t you give these new members some names? None of them have names yet!"

"Oh! Right!"

I’d almost forgotten!

Now that all these newcomers had successfully joined the Castle Tribe and evolved into Super Forest Goblins, it was about time I gave them proper names.

And considering how many new members we’d just gained...

Oh my lord...

Looks like I’ve got quite a bit of naming to do!

Chapter 123: Naming Ceremony

I had actually wondered about this before...

Why didn’t goblins have names?

Sure, goblin society might seem rather primitive, but surely they had some sort of naming system, right?

After all, having individual names was one of the most basic aspects of any society. It allowed people to distinguish one individual from another during everyday conversations and social interactions. As long as a species had its own language, it seemed only natural that it would develop some way of naming its members.

Could it be...

Were their previous names simply not recognized by the System?

Or was there some other, more mysterious reason behind it?

Well, after asking Gopuran about this earlier, I finally got my answer.

As it turned out, it wasn’t that goblins didn’t have names. Rather, they simply didn’t have fixed ones.

Most goblins addressed one another through their family relationships.

For example, Gopuro called Gopuran his younger sister, while Gopuran referred to him as her older brother. The chieftain also simply called his daughter... well, his daughter.

Most goblins living within a tribe were closely related by blood anyway, so addressing one another that way was usually more than enough.

Aside from that, they also used occupations and social positions, such as Chieftain, Shaman, Guard, Hunter, and so on.

They could even identify one another through physical characteristics.

For example...

Big Nose.

Flathead.

Big Butt.

Apparently, that was all they needed!

As a result, goblins had never really developed a proper naming system like humans did.

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And so...

Hmmmmmm...

I began racking my brain again.

It took me a good ten minutes before I finally settled on a naming scheme for all these new members.

First, there was the prefix.

All six of my original goblins shared a common part in their names: "Gopu."

Initially, I had planned to give every goblin who joined my territory the same "Gopu" prefix. However, after thinking about it again, I decided that changing things up a little might be better.

Perhaps goblins from different tribes should have different prefixes!

Alright, let’s give all the goblins from the Bright Red Nose Tribe the prefix "Gobi"!

A little variation would make their names more diverse and distinctive. It would also let me identify which tribe they originally came from at a glance!

Hehehe...

Not bad!

With the naming scheme settled, I finally began assigning names.

"Ahem!"

I cleared my imaginary throat.

Every goblin immediately turned toward me, falling completely silent.

And thus, the naming ceremony began!

Naturally, the first one to receive a name would be the one with the highest standing.

"Chieftain, from now on, your name will be Gobizarran!"

Honestly, I was just making things up as I went along this time. I simply picked whatever names sounded catchy to me.

Still, Gobizarran sounded pretty imposing, didn’t it?

"RAAAAA! GOBIZARRAN!!!"

The chieftain let out a mighty roar, loudly repeating his new name while pounding his chest with his remaining fist.

"Well? Do you like it? If you don’t, just let me know. I can always give you another name!"

"No! I love it!" the chieftain replied enthusiastically.

He then turned around and proudly announced to everyone.

"Kakaka! Listen up! From today onward, my name is Gobizarran!"

"Chieftain Gobizarran!"

"Chieftain Gobizarran, hooray!"

The chieftain’s eyes immediately narrowed and twitched.

He had thought everyone would stop calling him Chieftain now that he had a proper name. But no! They had simply decided to use both titles together!

Kakaka!

At the same time, the System also updated the chieftain’s name to Gobizarran!

[Name: Gobizarran]

Seeing that notification somehow made the whole thing feel official.

"Alright, Shaman! You’re next!"

Hearing this, the shaman immediately knelt down and bowed his head, ready to receive his new name.

I decided to name him Gobiman, taking the "man" from the word "shaman."

"Oh! Gobiman!"

The shaman raised his head, his face lighting up with joy.

"Thank you, Big Boss! Gobiman swears to remain absolutely loyal to you!"

"Very good!"

I was quite pleased to see that everyone seemed to like the names I’d given them.

And so, I continued.

One by one, the goblins quickly received their new names.

Gobiwan.

Gobiventi.

Gobivergyl.

Gobiwabo.

And many others.

Some names were inspired by their appearances, while others were simply whatever happened to pop into my head at the time.

Well, as long as they sounded good, that was what mattered!

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Finally, after a short while, I had finished naming all twenty-six new members.

I was quite satisfied with every single one of them.

Phew!

That was quite a lot of work!

"Alright, Gobizarran."

I called out to the chieftain using his newly assigned name for the first time.

"Yes, Big Boss?"

"Your new evolutionary form is called Hell Berserker, right? Could you show everyone what you’re capable of now?"

"Oh! Of course!"

Gobizarran replied, his eyes immediately lighting up with excitement.

The other goblins perked up as well. Their former chieftain was about to demonstrate his new powers, after all!

They immediately began cheering.

"Hell yeah! Show us, Chieftain!"

"Let us see your new strength!"

"Yeah! Show us what a Hell Berserker can do!"

"Hahaha! Alright! Everyone, follow me!"

Gobizarran laughed heartily before leading the way.

"Let’s head outside, then!"

In no time at all, everyone rushed out of the courtyard, eager to witness Gobizarran’s performance!

Meanwhile, I was already looking at his status screen.

And...

Oh boy...

Just looking at those numbers was enough to get me excited.

Because... whatever this guy was about to demonstrate, everyone was definitely in for quite a shock!

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[Citizen Status]

Name: Gobizarran

Race: Mega Forest Goblin

Specialized Evolutionary Path: Hell Berserker

Sex: Male

Rank: ★★★

Level: 31

Vital Status

- HP: 8250 / 8250

- MP: 275 / 275

- Stamina: 7500 / 7500

Core Attributes

- Attack: 405

- Defense: 183

- Magic Attack: 75

- Magic Defense: 87

- Magic Capacity: 32

- Speed: 52

Skill List

- Carnivorism Lv. 3

- Regeneration Lv. 5

- Hellish Transformation Lv. 1

- Berserker’s Blood Lv. 3

- Berserker’s Rage Lv. 3

- Warlord’s Aura Lv. 2

- Fearless

- Enraged Lv. 3

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