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

# chapter 51-65

As Gopuro went back to chopping more wood, Gopuran was about to take the Wood Gathering Quest as well, but I stopped her.

"No, Puran. I have something else I need you to do," I said.

"Yes, Big Boss?"

The girl tilted her head curiously.

I opened my inventory and pulled out a new quest scroll, then handed it to her.

[Quest: Scouting the Forest!]

### Prerequisite: None

Quest Info: Your Ruler wishes to tour the surrounding forest and see what lies within. However, their magic is still limited, so they possess a spell that allows them to connect with your eyes and see what you see. Therefore, you will venture into the forest and show your Ruler around, answering any questions they may have along the way.

### Quest Type: One-Time

Objective: Walk into the forest and explore until your Ruler tells you to return. Answer questions if possible. Do not travel more than 5 km away from the castle.

Reward: 2 Powerstones per hour

****

Gopuran happily accepted the quest, her sharp-toothed grin widening with excitement. And the moment she did, I activated [Vassal's Eyes], linking my vision directly to hers.

Instantly, another screen flickered open inside my mind.

It felt a little like suddenly turning on another television when I was already watching nine others at once.

Thankfully, I'd already gotten used to juggling multiple viewpoints, so it only took a few moments for me to adjust.

As Gopuran turned her head, my field of vision shifted along with hers.

And immediately, I noticed something.

The forest looked much clearer and more vivid through her eyes.

The trees loomed much taller from ground level, their thick trunks covered in rough bark etched with deep grooves and patches of soft green moss. Twisted roots snaked across the forest floor like sleeping serpents, occasionally disappearing beneath layers of fallen leaves.

And just as I had expected, the forest was dense.

Very dense.

The deeper Gopuran looked, the darker it became. Branches tangled overhead into a heavy canopy, allowing only thin strands of sunlight to slip through and dapple the ground in shifting patches of light.

Everything beyond the first few rows of trees gradually dissolved into layers of shadow and mystery.

From somewhere behind us came the steady, rhythmic sound of Gopuro chopping wood.

THUNK!

THUNK!

THUNK!

The guy was completely absorbed in his work now, even humming a happy little tune as he swung his axe.

It sounded almost like some kind of goblin folk song.

I couldn't help but chuckle.

Haha, that guy really does love chopping wood.

Gopuran eventually turned back toward the castle.

"Big Boss, should we go?"

"Yup!" I replied through [Ruler's Voice].

Before sending her off, however, I still had a few things to give her.

First, I gave her some bread in case she got hungry and needed a quick snack.

Next was a small wooden shield. It was round and a little larger than an average frying pan, giving her some extra protection in case she encountered something dangerous.

Hopefully, she wouldn't need it.

And finally, I gave her a small bone knife as a backup weapon. Just an F-tier weapon though.

With that, her preparations were complete.

Gopuran gave Gopuro a small wave goodbye before turning around and carefully venturing into the forest.

*****

A few moments later...

As Gopuran moved deeper into the forest, I noticed something interesting.

Her eyes adapted incredibly well to the darkness.

It was almost like looking through the eyes of a cat. Even beneath the dim canopy, where very little sunlight reached the forest floor, everything remained surprisingly clear.

Well, it made sense, since she was a goblin, and goblins had already evolved to live in this environment.

Anyway, the forest itself was remarkably quiet.

Only the gentle rustle of leaves stirred by the wind broke the silence, accompanied by the distant chirping of birds and the soft crunch of Gopuran's footsteps over fallen leaves and twigs.

For the first ten minutes, we saw little more than trees.

Trees, trees, and even more trees.

Nothing particularly interesting.

Until...

"Big Boss, look!"

Gopuran suddenly pointed toward a bush up ahead.

"Yeah, I'm looking!"

Obviously, my eyes were literally her eyes right now, so how could I not be?

That silly thought aside, the bush was actually quite interesting. Because it was covered in berries.

Aha! A berry bush!

Gopuran moved closer, using her short sword to cut through the vines blocking her path.
*free*

Once she reached the bush, she plucked one of the fruits from a branch.

It was round and fairly large, about the size of a table tennis ball, with bright orange skin. Several other berries on the bush were smaller and still green.

Looks like orange is their ripe color.

I immediately wondered whether they were edible.

Back in my previous life, eating random wild berries was almost always a terrible idea. More often than not, they turned out to be poisonous berries.

But Gopuran seemed to know exactly what she was doing.

"Big Boss! This is a sour berry! Sour berries are very delicious!"

Before I could say anything, she tossed one straight into her mouth.

"Mmmhh!"

Her vision suddenly went dark for a moment as she squeezed her eyes shut.

"Haha, that must be seriously sour indeed!"

Despite that reaction, Gopuran insisted that it was delicious and immediately popped another berry into her mouth.

"Mmmh! So delish!"

Yeah, yeah. So delish. I can totally see that.

Honestly, like hell I believed her!

Then again, she seemed perfectly happy eating them.

After a moment, Gopuran paused and looked ahead.

"Big Boss, can you taste what I taste too?"

"Ah, nope. I can’t."

My skill only allowed me to see and hear through her senses. It couldn’t transmit any of her other senses.

"Aww... that’s sad."

She sounded genuinely disappointed before tossing another sour berry into her mouth.

In the end, she ate about half of the ripe berries on the bush. She carefully collected the rest and placed them into her pouch, probably intending to bring them back for Gopuro.

That little detail made me smile.

She had been so protective of her new sword, yet she was already thinking about sharing food with her brother.

"Oh, Gopuran," I asked, another question suddenly coming to mind. "What did you two usually eat before you met me? Did you have meat every day?"

"Ermmm... no."

Her voice grew noticeably quieter.

Then she began telling me about how they had survived before coming here.

The sparse foraging.

The long stretches without enough food.

The days when they had little more than a few roots, berries, or whatever small prey they could find.

As I listened, I gradually fell silent.

I knew their life had been harsh.

But hearing the details made it feel much more real.

Oh damn...

No wonder they looked so small and frail.

If you find any errors (non-standard content, ads redirect, broken links, etc..), Please let us know so we can fix it as soon as possible.

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

It was terrible.

Most of the time, they simply wandered through the forest for hours, scavenging whatever edible things they could find along the way. Berries, wild plants, mushrooms, and even bugs made up the bulk of their meals. If they were lucky, they might stumble across a dead animal that hadn't started to rot yet.

Nine days out of ten, they went to sleep with empty, rumbling stomachs, sometimes having nothing more than a few bitter leaves or pieces of tree bark to chew on in an attempt to dull their hunger.

Even though Gopuro was the designated hunter between the two and sometimes went after small animals or tried his luck fishing in shallow streams, most of the time he came back empty-handed, tired and defeated.

That meant something as simple as this berry bush was practically a treasure to them. Even if the berries tasted absolutely awful, they were still a rare delicacy in the eyes of the two goblins.

No wonder they had reacted so strongly when they first saw the fresh meat I'd given them...

To these goblins, fresh, delicious meat was basically a treasure.

And that made me feel even worse about killing so many goblins before. Back then, I'd simply regarded them as greedy monsters who were willing to kill even their own kind for food.

But now, after learning just how valuable a piece of meat could be to them, I couldn't help but feel a little guilty.

After all, even humans could do terrible things when they were starving.

Throughout history, there had been famines so severe that some people had even resorted to trading their own children for food.

But... what was done was done. There was no point dwelling on it too much now. Instead, I needed to focus on becoming a good lord for my citizens.

Just then, Gopuran suddenly noticed something clinging to the bark of a nearby tree.

A bug.

A big bug!

It was round and glossy, about the size of a small leaf. Its hard shell shone a bright orange, dotted with tiny blue spots, making it look like some kind of giant fantasy ladybug with an unusually vibrant color pattern.

But before I could even fully process what I was looking at, she had already snatched it off the tree trunk with surprising speed...

...and eaten it!

CRUNCH!

CRUNCH!

"Mmmmmhhhh!"

She moaned in delight, her eyes half-closed in pure satisfaction.

Then she licked the green, slimy bug juice oozing from the crushed insect onto her fingers as if it were the most precious and delicious thing in the world, savoring every last drop.

Urrggghhhhh!

I shuddered internally.

At the same time, I was so freaking glad that [Vassal's Eyes] didn't come with a synchronized sense of taste!

Otherwise, that would have been a disaster.

Because back in my previous life, me eating bugs?

Yeah, not gonna happen! Not even in a million years!

Hell, just seeing a cockroach in my room was enough to scare the shit out of me, especially when the damn thing suddenly flew straight at my face!

But... errr... well, protein is protein, I guess!

*****

After that little snack, Gopuran moved on, and we continued exploring deeper into the forest. Barely ten minutes later, something genuinely interesting caught our attention.

A faint purple glow shimmered near the roots of a massive tree.

It was coming from a tiny mushroom growing right on the body of a dead rabbit.

"Gopuran, look!" I exclaimed.

She had already noticed it too.

"Big Boss, it a Purple Cap!"

Her voice was filled with excitement as she hurried over.

Using a broad leaf from a nearby plant, she carefully wrapped the mushroom before picking it up, making sure it never touched her bare skin. Her movements were surprisingly cautious and precise, as though she were handling something incredibly valuable.

"Gopuran, this purple mushroom is edible too?" I asked.

Up close, the thing looked even cuter, almost like a tiny cone-shaped gummy candy stuck on a toothpick. Except this one glowed softly, with tiny purple and white specks glittering across its surface in the dim light.

No wonder Gopuran had gotten so excited. From her reaction, I honestly thought it might be some kind of rare delicacy.

However, Gopuran shook her head.

"No, it’s poisonous!" she said. "Eat this mushroom, you will be paralyzed!"

"Oooh!" I exclaimed. "But if it’s poisonous, why are you picking it up?"

"Well, it’s for hunting!"

Eh? Hunting...?

I wondered for a moment.

Right!

I quickly understood what she meant.

By extracting the poison somehow and spreading it onto the tips of their spears or daggers, these goblins could turn simple weapons into deadly poisonous tools. That way, even a small wound could potentially paralyze their prey.

Very interesting indeed.

I wondered just how potent this mushroom actually was.

"So... can it... paralyze a Horned Wolf?" I asked.

"Yeah!"

Gopuran answered confidently.

Damn...

I could hardly believe it.

This tiny little mushroom, barely the size of Gopuran’s pinky finger, had enough poison to paralyze a bull-sized wolf?

If possible, I’d love to study this mushroom later. Mainly, I’d want to see whether I could grow or cultivate more of them, since it could become a very valuable addition to my arsenal.

"Alright. Be careful, then. Don’t put it together with your food."

"Yup!"

Since it was poisonous, Gopuran didn’t simply toss it into her pouch. Instead, she carefully wrapped it in two more layers of dried leaves before...

...stashing it into her hair bundle.

I had to admit, her creativity was pretty impressive.

We then moved on and continued exploring the area.

And just like that, somehow, this goblin girl had turned the entire scouting quest into an exotic food tour.

Tree bark, suspicious berries, glowing mushrooms, more bugs...

She literally had an appetite for everything!

Through her expertise, I was learning a surprising amount about this ecosystem: what was safe to eat, what to avoid, and what could be turned into a weapon.

Still...

If someone abandoned me here alone, I would rather starve to death than eat any of those gross, creepy bugs!

If you find any errors (non-standard content, ads redirect, broken links, etc..), Please let us know so we can fix it as soon as possible.

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

We continued on, exploring deeper into the forest.

From time to time, something rustled in the bushes nearby, probably some small animal hiding among the undergrowth. We also heard the calls of several different birds, each with its own distinctive song echoing through the trees.

Along the way, we harvested a few more kinds of berries and mushrooms. Some were edible, while others were surprisingly poisonous. Fortunately, Gopuran seemed to know which was which, so I didn't have to worry about accidentally having her eat something that would kill her.

Meanwhile, I was also mentally drawing a map of the area.

The System didn't provide me with a minimap or anything like that, but thanks to [Vassal's Eyes], I could still faintly sense the connection between Gopuran and me. I couldn't pinpoint her exact location like a GPS, but I could at least get a rough sense of her direction and distance relative to the castle.

And that proved surprisingly useful.

I could keep track of the landmarks we passed, mentally note the locations of useful plants and mushrooms, and gradually piece together my own map of the forest.

And, of course, there was another major advantage.

If anything happened to Gopuran, I could immediately send Gopuro rushing over to help her.

Speaking of Gopuro...

The dude was still happily chopping down trees, hauling the logs back to my castle one load at a time.

Anyway, so far, there was nothing particularly unusual about this forest. We hadn't encountered a single monster, nor had we come across any other goblins.

Still, I knew better than to let my guard down.

"Puran, be careful," I reminded her.

"Yes, Big Boss," Gopuran replied.

She then used her sword to make a small mark on the trunk of a nearby tree, adding another landmark to our mental map.

We continued forward.

****

But then...

A few moments later, while we were busy examining another strange-looking mushroom, Gopuran suddenly froze.

Her entire body went completely still.

Her large ears perked up sharply, and her head snapped toward the deeper part of the forest.

"Big Boss, you hear?" Gopuran asked, her voice dropping to an urgent whisper.

"Huh? Hear what?" I replied, caught completely off guard.

I'd been too focused on the strange blue mushroom in front of us to notice anything unusual. Its spotted cap had been oddly hypnotic.

Then Gopuran's ears twitched again.

She had caught the sound once more. And this time, I heard it too through our shared senses.

They were goblins.

There were frantic shoutings in the goblin language.

The voices sounded small and distant, carried faintly through the thick trees and heavy canopy. Whoever were shouting had to be quite far away, yet the raw panic in their voices was unmistakable.

And since I could understand Goblish, I was able to make out fragments of what they were saying. They were literally screaming:

"AAAA! RUN!!!"

"AAAAAH!!"

"It’s coming!!!"

It wasn’t just one voice, either. There were at least three or four distinct voices overlapping in terror!

High-pitched, desperate screams, the kind of screams that could only come from someone panicking and running for their lives.

Even from this distance, the fear in their voices sent a chill through me.

Gopuran dropped the mushroom instantly.

"BROTHERS! SISTERS!" she shouted back in panic.

The mushroom tumbled forgotten into the moss as she then burst into a full sprint toward the sound!

Even when thick bushes blocked her path, she didn’t slow down. She simply leaped over them or slipped between the trees, moving with shocking agility.

Her short sword flashed as she used it to cut through vines and branches blocking her way.

Within moments, she was weaving between the trees so quickly that her vision blurred.

"Gopuran, what’s going on?!" I asked, alarm rising in my voice.

"My brothers and sisters! My tribe!"

Her answer immediately made my thoughts race.

What is going on?! Are they being chased?

By what? A monster?

And then another possibility suddenly occurred to me.

Could it be the spider monsters that attacked Puro and Puran’s tribe?

If so, this is way too dangerous!

****

And so, in just a few short minutes, we passed through more trees than I could count and finally arrived at the scene.

From our high perch among the thick branches, I spotted them below.

Four goblins were running for their lives.

They tore through the undergrowth in blind panic, stumbling over thick roots and crashing through thorny bushes, their breaths coming in ragged, desperate gasps. Branches whipped across their faces, leaving red welts as they pushed forward with everything they had left.

Among them, one larger, evolved goblin immediately stood out. He was carrying a much smaller female goblin on his back, her tiny arms wrapped tightly around his shoulders as she cried openly, her face buried against him in terror.

The others stayed close, constantly glancing back over their shoulders, their eyes wide with raw, animalistic fear.

Afraid that Gopuran might rush straight into danger, I immediately stopped her.

"Wait! Puran! Stop!" I ordered.

Fortunately, she wasn’t foolish enough to leap in blindly, so even though the panic was clearly written all over her body, she stopped. As she crouched low on the branch, her hands trembled, every muscle tense, staring intently into the deeper part of the forest.

Now what could it be?

What the hell is chasing these poor goblins?

And I got my answer almost immediately.

Something enormous burst into view.

A giant bear.

No.

Calling it a bear almost felt like an insult to the word.

This thing was a monster of a bear!

Its body was massive, easily twice, perhaps even three times the size of the giant Horned Wolf I'd killed before, and was covered in thick black fur. Its maw hung open, revealing rows of thick, yellowed fangs slick with saliva.

As it roared, strings of drool swung from its jaws.

Its eyes burned with a savage, hungry red, and each step struck the ground like a hammer.

If you find any errors (non-standard content, ads redirect, broken links, etc..), Please let us know so we can fix it as soon as possible.

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

BOOM!

BOOM!

The earth trembled beneath the massive bear's paws.

Small trees and saplings were crushed flat in its wake, while thicker trunks cracked and splintered as it barreled through the forest like a living avalanche.

Compared to this thing, the Giant Horned Wolves seemed more like harmless kitties.

Then it swiped

A nearby tree exploded apart..

BOOM!

The thick trunk shattered instantly beneath its claws, sending splinters and chunks of bark flying in every direction!

The goblins ducked just in time, narrowly avoiding being torn apart.

But the bear wasn't done.

With another furious roar, it raised one massive paw and slammed it into the ground.

BOOOOOOOM!

The sound was thunderous!

The earth cracked beneath the impact!

A visible shockwave blasted outward in a violent ring, tearing through the surrounding undergrowth.

All four goblins were caught in it.

They were blown off their feet and sent crashing across the forest floor, rolling through mud, roots, and broken branches like rag dolls!

*****

Meanwhile, even from our high perch, I felt my vision shake violently through Gopuran's eyes. For a moment, I honestly thought the sheer force of the shockwave might even knock her off the tree.

Shit! What the fuck?!

Is this a skill?

It has to be a skill!

Damn, this bear is way too strong!

I immediately tried using [Vassal's Eyes] to assess its stats, but the skill failed to activate.

Turns out, I could only use it to observe creatures within my territory.

The situation was bad.

Really bad.

Fuck.

If Gopuran goes in, she will definitely die too!

And yet, I could already tell what she was thinking.

Her body shifted forward, ready to leap from the branch, but even she hesitated at the last moment and pulled back slightly.

That alone made my nonexistent heart sink.

"Puran! Think this through!" I shouted in panic. "You are no match for that bear! Leave them!"

Yes, saving those goblins could potentially mean gaining four new citizens, which would be incredible.

But the odds of actually defeating that thing, or even escaping alive, were so slim that risking Gopuran's life for them felt insane.

It was basically a suicide mission.

Theoretically, we could try to lure the giant bear back to the castle. If I dropped hundreds of units of wood on its head, maybe I could kill it.

Maybe...

But even that plan sounded far too dangerous. Gopuran could be caught and torn apart before she even made it halfway back to the castle!

And yet...

The final decision was still in Gopuran's hands.

And it didn't take her long to make it.

She reached into her ponytail and pulled out the leaf-wrapped poison mushroom she'd hidden earlier.

Using the blunt side of her sword, she crushed it against the blade.

SQUISH!

Thick purple liquid oozed from the crushed mushroom, glowing ominously in the dim forest light. Gopuran quickly smeared the venom along the edge of her short sword in one swift motion.

Right! Poison!

We can definitely use it!

If what Gopuran had told me was true, and the [Purple Cap] could paralyze a Horned Wolf, then maybe, just maybe, it could work on this bear too.

"Big Boss, I..." Gopuran muttered.

Her voice trembled, choked with tears.

"I want to save them..."

"Please... "

She was asking for permission.

Because she knew exactly what it meant if she jumped down there.

I hesitated for only half a second before making my choice.

A difficult choice.

"Go, Puran."

"If things go bad, you run first. Save yourself."

The words came out much harder than I'd expected. And even though I didn't have a real heart, it still felt incredibly heavy, like every single brick and stone of my castle had suddenly tripled in weight.

I really, really didn't want to lose her.

But even though she was my citizen, she still had her own free will. If she was truly determined to save her friends, then who the hell was I to stop her?

All I could do now was give her permission and then do everything I could to help everyone get out of this dangerous situation alive.

Hearing my words...

"YES!"

Gopuran's reply came out firm this time, sharp with resolve.

The fear was still there.

But so was her determination.

****

Below, the evolved goblin finally put the smaller female down.

He turned toward the giant bear, let out a desperate roar, and suddenly lunged forward.

He pushed off the ground and leaped with everything he had, a stone dagger raised high above his head. His face was twisted with fear and fury, yet there was a fierce, desperate determination in his eyes.

"YARRRRRR!!!!"

For a split second, it almost looked heroic.

Then the blade came down.

CLANG!

The stone dagger struck the bear squarely on the side of its massive skull...

...and bounced right off.

The evolved goblin’s eyes widened in disbelief.

There was not even a single scratch.

The blade hadn’t even managed to pierce the thick hide beneath the dense fur, as though he’d just struck solid iron.

The bear didn’t even flinch. Instead, it slowly turned its monstrous head toward him.

Then it roared.

"ROOOOAAARRR!!!"

The sound exploded through the forest like thunder!

The shockwave of its roar hit the goblin point-blank.

The poor dude froze instantly.

His entire body locked up, his ears flattening against his head as the dagger slipped from his trembling fingers. The evolved goblin stood there completely helpless, his face drained of color.

Even without words, I could read the terror in his eyes.

He knew... that this was the end.

The giant bear raised one enormous paw, its curved claws glinting beneath the dim forest canopy.

The goblin's body trembled violently, but he couldn't move an inch.

Then, just as death was about to come crashing down...

Gopuran dropped from above.

WOOSH!

She came down like a green meteor, crashing straight through the branches and slamming into the bear's shoulder with all the force of her fall!

Leaves and splinters burst into the air as she drove her poison-coated short sword toward the bear's neck!

If you find any errors (non-standard content, ads redirect, broken links, etc..), Please let us know so we can fix it as soon as possible.

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

The moment Gopuran came crashing down from above, her poison-coated sword plunged into the giant bear's neck with a sickening thud!

The beast let out a piercing, agony-filled roar that tore through the forest.

"ROOOOAAAGH!!!"

Dark, steaming blood burst from the wound and splattered across the surrounding leaves.

For a brief moment, it looked like a perfect strike.

Then Gopuran's expression changed. The wound was not deep enough.

"Fuck... its body is too tough!"

The bear's thick hide and powerful muscles had absorbed most of the force behind the attack. Even after Gopuran drove the blade in with everything she had, the sword had penetrated only around ten centimeters.

It was nowhere near deep enough to reach anything vital.

Gopuran gritted her teeth and tried to force the sword farther in.

It did not move.

It felt like she was trying to drive a stick through solid stone.

Still, she refused to let go.

Gopuran clung tightly to the sword's handle, her small body nearly swallowed by the monster's enormous frame. One hand remained locked around the hilt while the other sank deep into its thick fur, using the beast itself as an anchor.

Every muscle in her body strained as she poured all her strength into maintaining her grip.

The giant bear suddenly reared up.

Then it twisted violently. *oom*

Its massive body whipped from side to side, trying to throw her off.

Its claws gouged deep furrows into the earth as it thrashed and bucked like a creature gone completely berserk.

But Gopuran held on.

She was shaken so violently that her entire body was nearly torn from the bear's back, yet her fingers never loosened.

The more the bear struggled, the tighter she held.

Unable to dislodge her, the beast grew even more furious.

With a bloodcurdling snarl, it suddenly charged toward a nearby tree.

Gopuran's eyes widened.

It's going to crush her!

"PURAN!!!" I screamed, praying that she would react in time.

The bear accelerated, its enormous body barreling toward the thick trunk.

BOOOOM!

The impact was monstrous.

The tree exploded apart as the bear slammed into it!

But thankfully, Gopuran was no longer there.

At the very last instant, she kicked off the bear's back and launched herself away. Her body flipped through the air before she landed several steps behind the beast in a low crouch.

The giant bear rolled twice across the forest floor before finally digging its claws into the dirt and forcing itself upright.

Then it spun around.

Its eyes were bloodshot, blazing with murderous fury.

Blood continued to drip from the wound in its neck, running through its black fur and staining it dark and wet.

Every ounce of its murderous attention now locked onto Gopuran.

"RUN!" Gopuran shouted toward the other goblins.

And yet, they did not move. They were still frozen in shock and fear.

The evolved goblin stood there like a green statue, while the others stared at the raging monster with wide, terrified eyes.

Gopuran clicked her tongue.

"RUN! QUICK!!!"

Her second shout cracked through the clearing with enough force to finally break their paralysis.

The goblins jolted into motion.

They turned and fled into the forest, stumbling over roots and crashing through the undergrowth as they desperately tried to put as much distance between themselves and the monster as possible.

The bear immediately noticed them, its massive shoulders tensed.

For one heart-stopping moment, I thought it would abandon Gopuran and chase after the fleeing goblins.

If so, that would be bad...

However, instead, it lowered its body.

And again, it charged straight at Gopuran.

Rumble!

RUMBLE!!!

The ground shook beneath its thunderous footsteps as the giant bear barreled forward like a living avalanche.

Gopuran did not retreat.

She waited.

Closer.

Closer.

The bear was almost upon her.

Its enormous paw swung toward her head.

At the very last possible moment, Gopuran moved.

She sprang upward with all the strength in her powerful legs.

A powerful jump. Far higher than I had expected.

Her small body sailed cleanly over the bear's head, passing just above its snapping jaws and slashing claws.

She twisted in midair and landed behind it, rolling across the ground to absorb the impact.

The bear skidded to a halt.

Then, almost immediately, it spun around.

Perfect.

Its attention remained completely fixed on Gopuran, not the other goblins.

"Very good, Puran!" I shouted. "Keep its aggro on you! Just wait until the poison takes effect!"

For the first time since the fight began, I could finally see a path to victory.

Everything was going according to plan.

The giant bear lunged again.

Gopuran sidestepped at the last moment.

One massive claw swept through the space where her body had been only a heartbeat earlier.

BOOM!

The ground exploded beneath the impact.

Gopuran continued to move.

She sprinted between the trees.

The bear turned and came after her.

Another charge.

Another crushing swipe.

Another narrow escape.

Again.

And again.

Every time the bear seemed certain to catch her, Gopuran slipped away at the final instant.

The giant bear was incredibly fast. But Gopuran was faster.

"Keep it up, Puran!"

Against something this huge and powerful, direct confrontation was pure suicide. But once the poison took effect, we would finally have a chance to counterattack.

However...

Ten seconds passed.

Then twenty.

Then thirty.

Every single second felt like an eternity.

I watched in growing anxiety, my nonexistent adrenaline practically rocketing as I wondered when the hell that poison was supposed to take effect.

The thick purple venom should already have been coursing through the bear's bloodstream.

So why was it still moving?

Why did it still look so full of savage energy?

Could it be that... this bear is immune to poison?

The thought sent a chill through me.

I really hoped that wasn't the case.

The beast continued roaring and thrashing in blind fury. Its claws tore chunks of bark from tree trunks and gouged deep, ragged trenches into the forest floor with every furious swing.

But then, finally, after nearly forty agonizing seconds...

It happened.

Its movements began to slow.

The bear staggered, its massive body swaying from side to side as if the entire forest had suddenly begun spinning around it. It shook its head, desperately trying to fight off the dizziness, but its footing grew increasingly unstable. Its legs trembled beneath its enormous weight.

"Yes! It's working!" I exclaimed in delight.

Still, this was not the time to rush in.

One mistake here, and Gopuran would die.

Gopuran seemed to understand that as well.

She bent down and picked up the sword she had dropped earlier. She raised her small shield with her other hand, keeping it ready for an emergency, while her eyes never left the bear.

A few seconds later, the giant bear finally gave in.

Its legs trembled as it struggled to take another step.

One step.

Then another.

Its massive body suddenly lurched sideways.

And then it collapsed.

THUD!

The enormous beast crashed into a tree, its body slumping heavily against the trunk.

But even then, Gopuran did not move.

She waited.

One second.

Two seconds.

Five seconds...

She waited until she was certain it was safe to approach.

Then, after another five full seconds, Gopuran finally charged forward.

With a fierce battle cry, she raised her sword and unleashed her skill.

"WIND BLADE!"

SLASH!

A compressed blade of wind tore through the air and slammed directly into the bear’s face!

At such close range, the attack had almost no time to lose power.

Blood splashed across its fur.

"WIND BLADE!"

SLASH!

Another blade of wind struck the exact same spot.

Then another.

"WIND BLADEEEE!"

Three consecutive Wind Blades crashed into the bear's face!

Blood spurted from the damaged area. But still, the strikes still couldn't penetrate through the skull...

Damn! Its skull is so thick!

Or rather, her attack was simply not powerful enough!

If only Gopuran had something with more destructive power...

If only she had Gopuro's E-Tier Iron Axe!

Suddenly, another idea struck me.

"PURAN! ATTACK ITS EYES!"

"YES!"

Without hesitation, Gopuran changed her target.

She drove her sword straight into one of the bear's eye sockets.

POP!

The blade pierced deep, and Gopuran twisted it viciously before pulling it free.

Blood splashed across her face as the bear's eye was destroyed.

"GOOD! NOW THE OTHER EYE!"

Gopuran immediately turned toward the remaining eye.

But before Gopuran could strike...

The bear suddenly moved.

Its massive body twitched, then its remaining bloodshot eye snapped open.

"WATCH OUT, PURAN!"

If you find any errors (non-standard content, ads redirect, broken links, etc..), Please let us know so we can fix it as soon as possible.

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

Moments before this fight...

To be safe, I had already sold everything in my inventory for Points.

[Castle Points Remaining: 1,095]

And then I purchased that skill.

[Ding! You have successfully upgraded [Lord's Blessing] to Level 2!]

[Castle Points - 1,000]

[Castle Points Remaining: 95]

...

[Lord's Blessing Lv. 2]

Additional Effect: The Ruler can now spend Points to grant citizens powerful temporary blessings.

[Blessings Available at Level 2]

- Blessing of Haste

- Blessing of Strength

- Blessing of Life

- Blessing of Protection

- Blessing of Sharp Senses

Limit: At the current level, only one blessing can be active on any individual citizen at a time, though multiple citizens can be blessed simultaneously. Once a blessing is turned off, you must wait at least 1 minute before applying another blessing. Further upgrades to this skill will unlock additional blessings and the ability to stack multiple blessings.

With this, I had gained another layer of insurance.

If something went wrong, a blessing activated at the right moment could mean the difference between life and death for my super goblins.

*****

Now...

"WATCH OUT, PURAN!"

The giant beast’s arm came swinging in a brutal arc, smashing directly into Gopuran with crushing force!

Thankfully, she had her shield raised just in time.

The wooden shield took the blow head-on.

CRACK!

It shattered instantly.

Splinters exploded into the air as the sheer force of the impact sent Gopuran flying across the battlefield like a rag doll.

She slammed into a tree trunk.

BOOM!

The entire tree shook from the impact, sending a shower of leaves raining down around her.

Through our link, her vision spun violently. For several seconds, all I could see was a dizzy blur of branches, leaves, and sky.

"PURAN! PURAN!"

There was no response.

Our shared vision even flickered on and off.

For one terrifying moment, I thought she was dead.

Then, finally, a weak voice came through.

"Big... Boss... I... can’t move..."

My nonexistent heart dropped.

No.

No, no, no, no...

I had been too careless.

I had thought victory was practically guaranteed once the poison paralyzed the bear.

But I was wrong.

Very wrong.

Thankfully, I had managed to activate Blessing of Strength at the last possible moment, granting Puran an additional 30% Attack and Defense.

Without it... things could have ended much worse.

Meanwhile, the bear slowly pushed itself back onto its feet.

It shook its massive head, sending blood and saliva spraying from its jaws. Blood continued pouring from its destroyed eye socket, running down the side of its face.

Then...

Its body began to change.

The muscles beneath its thick fur bulged and swelled.

Its fur bristled outward like a field of black needles.

The beast grew larger.

Then larger still.

Its massive frame continued expanding until it was nearly the size of a minibus!

And then, right before my eyes, its dark fur began turning red.

The remaining eye fixed itself on Gopuran, glowing with feral madness as thick veins bulged along its neck and shoulders.

It looked as though the beast had entered an entirely new, far more powerful form.

Then came another thunderous roar.

"ROOOAAARRR!!!"

The sound shook the entire forest!

Branches trembled, leaves rained down. Even the ground vibrated beneath its rage.

And worst of all. It no longer looked affected by the poison.

If anything, it looked even stronger than before.

I stared in disbelief.

"How?! This makes no freaking sense!"

I was absolutely certain the poison had worked.

The bear had collapsed. It had been completely paralyzed.

So why the hell had it suddenly...

...

Wait.

Don’t tell me...

It’s that skill!

[Enraged Lv. 1]

Effect: Enter an enraged state. While active, the user’s Attack, Defense, and Speed stats are temporarily increased by 50%, stamina consumption is reduced by 90%, and all pain is completely nullified. All crowd-control negative status effects, such as stun, paralysis, and illusions, are immediately cured, and the user becomes immune to them for the entire duration of the skill.

However, once the state ends, the user becomes completely unable to move for 1 hour. Afterward, the user suffers a severe penalty of -50% to all stats for 3 days.

Special Effect: Can automatically activate when Stamina or HP falls below 20%.

Duration: 2 minutes

...

That was it.

It had to be!

It was the same skill that both Gopuro and Gopuran had awakened after failing the Strength Demonstration Quest and being pushed beyond their limits by the System's punishment!

The description matched exactly what I was seeing.

The moment Gopuran had nearly brought the bear down, its HP must have fallen below the activation threshold. The Enraged skill had then triggered automatically, cleansing the poison's paralysis and temporarily boosting the beast's physical abilities.

That was the most likely explanation.

Well, whatever the case still, one thing was certain...

We were fucked.

Gopuran was already badly injured. She could barely move. At this rate, she was going to die.

The enraged bear lunged at her again, its massive body shooting forward like a living meteor.

She had to move.

Now!

"PURAN! ENRAGE YOURSELF!" I screamed desperately.

In fact, I had been screaming this ever since she was hit earlier! But for some reason, probably dizziness, she hadn't been able to hear me!

"ARRRHHH!"

Gopuran finally activated the skill.

Her body began to transform as veins bulged beneath her skin and her muscles swelled with newfound power.

But... it was too late.

The bear was already upon her.

Fuck!

Is this... the end?!

*****

"DON’T YOU DARE HURT PURAN!!!"

A green blur suddenly came crashing in like lightning.

BOOOOM!

It slammed into the bear’s side with tremendous force, knocking the enraged beast just far enough off course for its attack to miss Gopuran!

The enraged bear smashed through several trees, leaving a devastating trail of broken trunks and splintered wood in its wake.

But Gopuran...

She was safe!

And the green blur?

It was him! Gopuro!

"Puran! You good?"

The goblin rushed to her side and helped pull her back onto her feet.

His body was drenched in sweat, and his chest heaved from the effort. Even so, the moment he saw that Gopuran was still alive, a relieved smile spread across his face.

Holy shit...

That scared the hell out of me!

For a moment, I had genuinely thought she would be dead for sure, and I would be losing my dear citizen just like that.

Thankfully, Gopuro was here just in time to save the day.

If you find any errors (non-standard content, ads redirect, broken links, etc..), Please let us know so we can fix it as soon as possible.

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

Earlier, the moment we first heard the screams of the four other goblins, I had already sent a mental command to Gopuro, ordering him to rush over and help.

He had come without a second thought.

Unfortunately, because I could only use [Vassal's Eyes] on one citizen at a time, I had no way of seeing his approach or knowing how close he was. All I could do was trust that he would arrive before it was too late.

Thank god he had made it in time.

Otherwise, his little sister would probably already be in pieces.

Still, we couldn't relax yet. The danger was standing right in front of us, and the bear was still in its enraged state, stronger than ever. Sooner or later, it would recover from Gopuro's interference and come charging back at us.

"PURO! RUN! TAKE PURAN WITH YOU!" I shouted into his mind.

But Gopuro didn't move.

Instead, he stood there staring directly at the enraged bear. Then, to my growing disbelief, a wild grin slowly spread across his face.

Fuck.

No, no, no, no...

This muscle-headed idiot...

What the hell is he planning?

"Big Boss, I can do it! Leave this to me!" Gopuro shouted confidently.

And then, to my horror, the idiot charged straight at the bear like some reckless hero from an action movie!

"PURO, WAIT!"

It was already too late.

With no other choice, I immediately activated another Lord's Blessing.

**Blessing of Strength!**

A 30% increase to both Attack and Defense should at least give him a fighting chance!

Or so I hoped...

The bear's massive paw swung toward him almost immediately, and despite the blessing, Gopuro had no chance of blocking it head-on.

**WHAM!**

The blow sent him flying through the air before he crashed heavily into a nearby tree.

"BLARGH!"

Blood burst from his mouth, but the madman refused to stay down. He staggered upright, wiped the blood from his lips, and charged back into the fight as though getting smashed into a tree were nothing more than a minor inconvenience.

His [Enraged] state was still active, and the blessing was reinforcing his body with additional strength and defense. Together, they gave him just enough power to keep himself in the fight against the monstrous bear.

"Damn it! Puran! We have to help him!"

"YES!"

Gopuran was finally able to get back onto her feet now that her own [Enraged] state had taken effect. The pain tearing through her battered body no longer seemed to matter, and she quickly picked up her sword before rushing toward the battle.

Meanwhile, Gopuro tightened his grip around his iron axe and closed in on the bear again.

The beast noticed him immediately and swung one of its enormous claws toward him. Thanks to the tremendous speed boost from [Enraged], however, Gopuro managed to react at the last possible moment. He dropped into a crouch and slid beneath the sweeping claw, the massive talons passing barely an inch above his head.

As soon as he reached the bear's side, he twisted his body and swung his axe at its back, clearly intending to use [Big Slash].

Unfortunately, the idiot had forgotten one rather important detail.

He was out of mana.

Without enough mana to activate the skill, his axe merely carved a shallow cut across the bear's thick hide. The wound was barely noticeable, and the beast didn't even seem to feel it.

The bear immediately spun around, its bloodshot eyes locking onto Gopuro with murderous fury. It rose onto its hind legs, towering over him as one enormous paw slowly lifted into the air.

Gopuro looked up.

A massive shadow swallowed his body.

"Uh-oh..."

The confidence disappeared from his face as he stared at the paw hanging above him. For one brief moment, it looked as though death itself had appeared right in front of him.

The paw came crashing down.

But before it could reach him, Gopuran burst in from the side.

"PURO!"

She slammed into the bear with a full-force tackle!

"ARGGHHHH!"

Her impact knocked the enormous beast off balance just enough to throw its attack off course. Instead of crushing Gopuro, the massive paw slammed into the ground beside him with an earth-shaking BOOM, sending dirt and broken roots flying into the air.

The bear staggered sideways.

And that single opening was all Gopuran needed.

She lunged forward, threw her sword aside, snatched the iron axe from Gopuro's hand, and immediately retreated several steps. Once she had enough distance, she planted her feet firmly into the ground and raised the axe above her shoulder.

Then she began charging [Big Slash Lv. 1].

If Gopuro was out of mana, then at least Gopuran still had enough left to use the skill!

But she needed time.

Just one second.

A faint glow gradually gathered around the iron blade as mana surged into it, growing brighter with every passing moment.

Gopuro saw the glow and immediately understood what she needed without being told.

He had to buy her that second.

With a roar, he threw himself back into the fight.

He charged straight toward the bear and drove his fist into its face with everything he had!

**BAM!**

The punch produced a loud impact! But it barely did any damage. The bear's enormous head hardly moved, and the beast seemed more annoyed than hurt.

But Gopuro wasn't trying to hurt it.

He only needed its attention.

The bear's head snapped toward him, and its remaining eye immediately locked onto Gopuro. Its claws rose once more, ready to tear him apart.

And that was exactly what Gopuro wanted.

Behind the bear, Gopuran had finished charging.

Her [Enraged] state was still coursing through her body, boosting her stats and filling her limbs with explosive strength. Combined with the additional power from my [Blessing of Strength], every muscle in her body was now primed for one devastating strike.

All she needed was an opening.

And Gopuro had just given her one.

*****

## [Castle Points Remaining: 35]

Activating blessings on both of my citizens was draining my Points at a terrifying rate.

Three Points per second for each citizen.

That meant I had already burned through 60 Points in the last ten seconds alone.

At this rate, I could maintain the blessings for only another ten seconds.

Which meant... I was literally betting everything I had left on this one attack.

If this final attack failed, Puro and Puran would both die. There wouldn't be another opportunity like this.

*****

"EAT THIS!"

With a furious scream, Gopuran swung the glowing iron axe with every ounce of strength she possessed!

The blade slammed into the bear's neck.

For one brief instant, it met tremendous resistance. The beast's hide was incredibly thick, its muscles densely packed, and its Defense had been pushed to an absurd level by [Enraged].

But even that wasn't enough.

**SLAAAAAAASH!**

The glowing blade finally broke through!

It tore through flesh, muscle, and bone in one savage arc, severing the bear's enormous head from its body.

The head flew through the air in a spray of dark blood before crashing into the undergrowth several meters away.

Blood erupted from the severed neck, splattering across the forest floor as the giant, headless body remained standing for one surreal moment.

Then it swayed from side to side for a brief second, before collapsing with a thunderous crash.

...

For several seconds, nobody moved.

The forest had fallen completely silent.

The giant bear was dead.

If you find any errors (non-standard content, ads redirect, broken links, etc..), Please let us know so we can fix it as soon as possible.

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

For a moment, Gopuran could only stare.

Her eyes widened in disbelief as she looked at the massive bear corpse sprawled across the forest floor. Even now, after everything that had happened, she seemed unable to fully comprehend that the terrifying beast was actually dead.

She and Gopuro had really done it.

The two of them had taken down that monstrous bear.

Honestly, the entire fight had been suicidal from beginning to end. What Gopuro had done near the end still made my nonexistent blood boil. If he had been even a fraction of a second slower, or if Gopuran had failed to intervene in time, both of them could have been killed right there in the mud.

But in the end, only the result mattered.

They were alive.

The bear was dead.

And the four goblins had been saved.

That was enough.

As furious as I still was at their recklessness, I couldn’t deny how proud I felt. They were my first citizens, and when it truly mattered, they had fought bravely and protected one another.

"HELL YEAH! WE DID IT!"

Gopuro suddenly let out a triumphant roar and jumped into the air before rushing over and throwing his arms around Gopuran in a fierce, blood-soaked hug.

Gopuran was already covered in bear blood from head to toe, and after that hug, there was hardly a clean spot left on her. At this point, she looked less like a goblin and more like some demonic creature that had been painted entirely red.

Both of them then giggled like maniacs, thoroughly enjoying the sweet sensation of winning this seemingly unwinnable battle.

But then...

"ACK!"

Gopuran suddenly froze, her face twisted in pain.

Right.

The side effect of [Enraged Lv. 1]. It was finally kicking in.

The brutal backlash had arrived.

"Well... good luck, you two."

The words had barely left my mind when Gopuran’s legs suddenly gave out beneath her.

She collapsed onto the blood-soaked ground with a heavy thud, completely unable to move.

A few seconds later, Gopuro suffered the same fate.

"URGH! FUCK!"

He dropped beside her, cursing as his entire body suddenly locked up. After that, both goblins could do nothing except lie helplessly on the ground, unable to move even a single muscle.

And so...

For the next full hour, they were completely defenseless.

Thankfully, no other beasts wandered into the area during that time. If another predator had happened to discover them while they were paralyzed, they would have been easy prey, and the outcome could have been disastrous.

Fortunately, the deafening noise caused by the bear’s rampage had probably frightened away most of the nearby creatures. The lingering smell of blood was still dangerous, but at least nothing came to investigate while the two goblins were helpless.

*****

About an hour later, the paralysis finally wore off.

The two goblins were able to move again, although the -50% stat penalty from [Enraged] was still weighing them down. Fortunately, they didn't have to fight another giant bear anytime soon. Apart from feeling considerably more tired than usual, they were still capable of performing basic tasks.

Gopuran immediately set off to search for the four goblins they had saved, while Gopuro stayed behind to deal with the bear's corpse. I switched my [Vassal's Eyes] over to him so I could see what he was doing.

As for "processing" the bear, the task was surprisingly straightforward.

Gopuro simply used his iron axe to chop the enormous carcass into more manageable pieces.

At first, I was a little surprised by how easily the axe cut through the bear.

Wait... wasn't this thing supposed to be ridiculously tough?

I thought about it for a moment and came up with several possible explanations.

The first possibility was the difference between the two states: life and death.

Could it be that a creature's stats were no longer effective after death? Perhaps once a creature died, its physical body would lose the benefits provided by its Defense stat, making it much easier to damage.

The second possibility was that the bear had some kind of skill.

I couldn't see its stats, so there was no way for me to confirm this. But if it had a passive or active skill that greatly enhanced the effectiveness of its Defense while it was alive, that could also explain why it had been so difficult to hurt during the battle.

Or...

Could it have something to do with mana interacting with the physical body?

Perhaps a living creature naturally used mana to reinforce its body, making its flesh, muscles, and bones far tougher than they would be after death.

I couldn't determine which explanation was correct.

For now, I could only make guesses.

Well, whatever the reason, at least I now know that chopping up a dead monster is easier than killing one!

Anyway, the beast was still absurdly huge.

Judging by its size, I estimated that the entire body weighed more than two tons. There was no way Gopuro and Gopuran could carry all of that back to the castle before sunset.

Worse, the longer we stayed here, the greater the chance of attracting another predator.

The thick smell of fresh blood alone would be enough to lure something dangerous from deeper within the forest.

Fuck... is there really no way to bring this thing back?

Just as I was thinking about that problem, Gopuran returned.

And she wasn’t alone.

The four goblins she had gone to find had made it back safely. There were two males and two females among them, including the evolved goblin we had encountered earlier. Standing beside Gopuran, he was a full head shorter than her.

Haha, I see... so this is the normal evolved variant.

Super Forest Goblin really is the superior evolution line here.

The moment the four goblins caught sight of the massive bear corpse sprawled across the forest floor, they all froze.

Their eyes widened, and their mouths fell open in shock.

Clearly, none of them had expected to see the terrifying monster that had nearly killed them lying dead before them.

Then their attention shifted to Gopuro.

Gopuro noticed them as well and turned to look.

For a moment, he simply stared at the four goblins, his eyes widened, as if he couldn’t quite believe what he was seeing.

"Huh...? Brothers?"

His voice trembled with disbelief.

"BROTHER!!!"

One of the goblins suddenly cried out.

The next moment, all four of them rushed toward Gopuro at once, nearly tackling him to the ground as they threw themselves into a chaotic mass of hugs and excited cries.

"Brother!"

"We thought you were dead!"

"You're alive!"

For a moment, the clearing was filled with laughter and joyful shouting as the goblins crowded around Gopuro like long-lost siblings who had finally been reunited.

Of course, Gopuro was now considerably larger than all of them, so the scene looked less like a group of siblings reuniting and more like a giant green man being swarmed by a group of excited children.

It was strangely wholesome.

Beside them, Gopuran's eyes began to glisten with tears. She quickly wiped them away before stepping forward to join the reunion.

I decided to let them have their moment.

They had earned it.

If you find any errors (non-standard content, ads redirect, broken links, etc..), Please let us know so we can fix it as soon as possible.



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

After they'd enjoyed their reunion for a while, I eventually pulled my attention back to the matter at hand.

Alright, enough celebration.

We still have work to do.

Now that the four additional goblins were here, another idea quickly formed in my mind.

I instructed Gopuro to continue chopping the bear into manageable pieces. Meanwhile, I had Gopuran collect the most valuable-looking parts of the monster first: its massive paws, heart, and severed head.

Those valuable parts, along with the four rescued goblins, would be taken back to the castle first.

Once there, I could sell the monster parts to the System for Castle Points and convert some of those Points into Powerstones.

And with those Powerstones...

I would be able to evolve the four goblins as well.

If everything went according to plan, we'd soon have several more strong laborers capable of helping us haul the rest of the bear back to the castle in multiple trips.

****

One hour later, the goblins finally made it back to the castle.

I welcomed them with open arms.

Or rather, an open gate.

I immediately sold the bear parts they'd brought back to the System, converting them into a fresh batch of Castle Points.

Then, once I had enough funds, the citizenship-granting process went smoothly.

One by one, the four goblins stepped forward, accepted the System's offer, and were officially registered under my rule.

[Ding! Congratulations!]

[You have successfully granted citizenship to a Level 13 Goblin!]

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

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

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

Just like that, I had four new citizens!

Hell yeah!

I then converted some of the remaining Castle Points into Powerstones and distributed those glowing crystals among the three unevolved recruits.

Their eyes lit up the moment they saw the Powerstones, and their hands trembled with excitement as they accepted them.

They immediately swallowed the stones.

Crunch after crunch, they devoured them like candy, their bodies beginning to glow as the strange energy surged through them.

Then the leveling began.

A series of bright chimes rang out in my mind as their levels climbed rapidly.

Level 6.

Level 7.

Level 8.

Level 9.

And soon enough, all three had reached Level 10.

Nice!

The evolved goblin was already Level 13, so I didn't give him any Powerstones for now. I wanted to try something different with him.

Then came the evolution.

One after another, the three goblins were enveloped in brilliant light.

Their bodies began to change, their forms shifting as the evolution energy coursed through them.

When the light finally faded, I was greeted by three completely different goblins.

And, damn...

The two females had turned into absolute beauties, just like Gopuran!

The first had grown into a tall, powerful woman with fiery red hair covering one eye, giving her a sharp, confident look.

The other had taken on a shorter and more slender form, with a much cuter appearance and long, wavy blue hair that flowed down her back.

Oh yes...

I was more than happy with these evolutions.

So far, every female goblin under my rule had turned out to be an absolute beauty.

However...

When it came to the one dude...

He looked... weird.

For some reason, his evolution had taken him in a completely different direction from Gopuro.

Instead of becoming muscular and broad like my resident lumberjack, he was now much shorter and more slender, with spiky, ash-colored hair.

The guy looked like he had walked straight out of some edgy anime and was about to announce his tragic backstory.

I quickly checked his status.

Still a Super Forest Goblin, though!

But as I scrolled further down, I became utterly confused... and intrigued.

Unlike Gopuro, whose attributes were heavily focused on Physical Attack and Physical Defense, this dude had somehow developed a completely different build.

Most of his attributes had been invested into...

SPEED!

*****

[Citizen Status]

Name: Unnamed (Designation Required)

Race: Super Forest Goblin

Sex: Male

Rank:★★

Level:10

Vital Status

- HP: 150 / 150

- MP: 20 / 20

- Stamina: 200 / 200

Core Attributes

- Attack: 8

- Defense: 5

- Magic Attack: 0

- Magic Defense: 0

- Magic Capacity: 0

- Speed: 17

Skill List

- Stealthy Steps Lv.1

- Acceleration Lv.1

- Carnivorism Lv.1

- Regeneration Lv.1

****

I stared at the numbers for a moment.

Oooooh!

That Speed stat was no joke! It was absurdly high.

Even at Level 11, Gopuro's Speed was only 5. Compared to this guy, my resident muscle brain was practically standing still.

It was like comparing a high school sprinter to Usain Bolto.

I also made sure to check his skills.

There were two that I'd never seen before.

[Stealthy Steps Lv.1]

Description: A movement skill that suppresses footstep noise and reduces the user's presence while in motion. Greatly increases stealth during movement and lowers the chance of detection by enemies.

Effect: Reduces movement noise by 80%

Duration: 30 seconds

Mana Cost: 10 MP

Cooldown: 5 minutes

...

[Acceleration Lv.1]

Description: A burst-type movement enhancement skill that temporarily increases speed and jumping power by stimulating the body's muscles beyond their normal limits.

Effect: +30% movement speed and +30% jump force

Duration: 10 seconds

Mana Cost: 10 MP

Cooldown: 5 minutes

...

Hell yeah!

This little dude is cracked!

As if to confirm my thoughts, the goblin suddenly burst into motion. He probably wanted to test out his new body as well.

One second, he was standing still.

The next...

VZZZT!

He shot across the courtyard like a gust of wind!

VZZZT!

A moment later, he was already on the opposite side!

I nearly lost track of him.

He moved so fast and so quietly that it genuinely looked like some kind of ninja was sprinting around my courtyard.

The other goblins stared at him in shock.

But then, clearly drunk on his newfound power, the guy let out an excited cry and activated [Acceleration].

His body blurred.

BAM!

A dull, painful crack echoed through the courtyard as he slammed headfirst into my castle wall!

OUCH!

I felt that!

The poor idiot dropped onto his butt, clutching his forehead and wincing as tears welled up in his eyes.

Seeing that, the other goblins immediately burst into laughter.

They pointed at him while wheezing and cackling, while the speed goblin's face slowly turned bright red with embarrassment.

Pffft... HAHAHA!

I couldn't help laughing too.

I already liked this guy. He was silly, energetic, and ridiculously fast.

But more importantly, his abilities seemed genuinely useful.

With speed and stealth like that, hadn't I just gained the perfect scout?

Or better yet... a deadly assassin?

All he needed now was proper training and enough time to get used to his incredible speed. Once he learned how to control it properly, he could become one of my strongest assets.

And for that reason, I decided it was finally time to give him a name.

I thought for a moment, then inspiration struck.

His incredible speed and build immediately made me think of an assassin lurking in the shadows.

Fast, deadly, and undoubtedly cool.

"From now on, you will be called... Gopushadow!"

"Uwwwwooohhh!!!"

The goblin's eyes immediately lit up with pride.

"Gopu... SHADOWWWW!!"

He thumped his chest and grinned from ear to ear!

Muehehehehe! NICE!

Looks like Gopushadow approved!

If you find any errors (non-standard content, ads redirect, broken links, etc..), Please let us know so we can fix it as soon as possible.





After naming the speedy guy, I proceeded to name the two female goblins as well.

The red-haired girl's appearance immediately reminded me of fire. Hot, blazing, and full of strength. So, after thinking about it for a moment, I decided to name her Gopuflammy.

Meanwhile, the other girl had a much cuter appearance. Her long blue hair and adorable face reminded me of blueberries.

And so, I named her Gopuberry.

Both girls seemed to absolutely love their new names. The moment I announced them, they accepted them without the slightest hesitation, clearly delighted to have names of their own.

Now then, with the three smaller goblins having successfully evolved and received both new forms and new names, I shifted my attention to the final one.

The goblin who had already evolved.

He had been quietly watching the entire scene unfold as his brothers and sisters transformed into superior variants right before his eyes. There was unmistakable joy in his expression, along with a hint of pride. But beneath all that, I could also sense something else.

A faint trace of jealousy.

He was already Level 13.

He had already undergone his first evolution.

To him, it must have seemed like there was no longer any chance of becoming a Super Forest Goblin. While the others had just taken a huge leap forward, he probably felt as though he had been left behind.

Fortunately for him, I already had a solution.

But before doing anything, I decided to check his status first. I was curious to see how his growth compared to Gopuro and Gopuran.

And just as I had expected, the difference was staggering.

The other two had gained roughly ten points in their core attributes per level after evolution.

This guy?

Only two.

I stared at the numbers for a long moment.

The gap was so absurd that it felt like the difference between heaven and earth. If things continued like this, he would inevitably fall further and further behind. Not by a little, but by a lot.

I see...

So that's why the System gave me that skill.

Everything was finally falling into place.

I hadn't understood why the heck I would need that skill before, but now, I finally did.

Without wasting another moment, I opened the Sovereign Shop.

Using the 100 Points I had earned from selling the bear's materials, I purchased the skill I had been thinking about.

[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.

Unlock Cost: 100 Points

****

Ding!

The purchase went through smoothly, and the skill was immediately added to my System.

Once I devolved him into his pre-evolution form, I would be able to let him evolve again, this time into the Super Forest Goblin variant.

And that sounded pretty damn awesome.

However, just as I was about to use it on him, I suddenly hesitated.

After all... this wasn't some simple buff or minor upgrade. I was about to forcibly reverse his entire evolution, causing him to lose a bunch of levels that he had probably worked incredibly hard to obtain.

If I were in his position, I would want to be asked first.

So I did.

I explained everything to him as clearly as I could. I told him about the difference in their stat growth, explained how his current evolutionary path would eventually leave him far behind his friends, and then told him about the possibility of devolving so that he could evolve again into a much stronger variant.

The moment I finished explaining, he didn’t even pause to think.

"Big Boss!" he said immediately. "I want to devolve! I want to be strong! Like my brothers and sisters! I want to protect!"

His eyes burned with determination, his expression filled with fiery resolve.

For a moment, I was genuinely moved.

There was no fear in him. No hesitation. Not even a hint of regret.

This guy truly wanted strength, and not merely for himself. He wanted to become strong enough to protect the friends he cared about.

I still vividly remembered how he had faced that enormous bear while carrying a smaller, injured goblin on his back. At his level, he could have easily abandoned his companions and run away on his own.

But he hadn’t.

He had stayed behind and fought.

He had earned my respect.

A slow smile spread through my thoughts.

"Alright," I said. "As you wish. I’ll devolve you right now."

And so, with his wholehearted approval, I activated [Devolution].

The moment I did, his entire body began to glow. A brilliant white light enveloped him from head to toe.

Then, before my eyes, his body shrunk.

His broad frame rapidly compressed, his limbs shortening as his entire silhouette regressed into that of a small, unevolved goblin.

It was almost surreal to watch.

In the span of a few seconds, he had lost nearly half his height.

At the same time, streams of pale light began to peel away from his body, like mist being drawn out of him. Those glowing strands rose into the air, twisted together, and slowly condensed into solid form.

A moment later, they crystallized into two Powerstones, which dropped onto the floor with a pair of sharp clinks.

The process was complete.

Now back at level 9, the goblin looked down at himself in astonishment. He turned around in place, raised his arms, and examined his smaller body from every angle. His face then broke into a wide smile, one filled with pure joy.

I could not help but laugh at the sight.

"Haha... to think someone would be this happy to lose so many levels!"

But then, my attention quickly shifted to the two Powerstones lying on the ground.

"Hold on...! Wait a minute!"

"Something ain’t right!"

The skill description had clearly stated that 30% of the accumulated experience lost through devolution would be refunded in the form of Powerstones. If I had only gotten two back, then that meant his progress from level 9 to level 13 had only cost the equivalent of around 6 Powerstones in total!

In comparison, Gopuro had needed a whopping 7 Powerstones just to go from level 10 to 11.

That was a staggering difference.

The gap between the old evolution line and the new one was enormous.

Still, enough with the calculations. It was time to bring the guy his muscles back.

And by that, I meant evolving him again.

If you find any errors (non-standard content, ads redirect, broken links, etc..), Please let us know so we can fix it as soon as possible.



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

I then gave the guy a Powerstone.

"Alright, this should be enough for you to reach Level 10 and evolve."

He eagerly took it from me and swallowed it in one gulp.

I couldn't help wondering what kind of evolved goblin he would become.

Since Gopushadow had developed such a completely different appearance from the other Super Forest Goblins, I had a feeling something similar might happen again.

And as it turned out...

I was right.

The moment he reached Level 10, his body began glowing once again, signaling the start of his evolution.

But this time, the transformation was far more intense.

His glowing silhouette began to grow taller.

Then broader.

Then much, much bigger than I had expected.

His shoulders widened dramatically, his limbs thickened, and dense muscle rapidly swelled across his entire frame. His chest expanded, his back grew broader, and even his hands became enormous.

But he didn't stop there.

He kept growing.

And growing.

And growing!

Soon, he was already taller than everyone else!

Then taller still!

And by the time the transformation finally began to slow, his silhouette had become absolutely gigantic.

Whoa... this is way bigger than I expected!

The brilliant light surrounding him finally burst apart in a dazzling flash.

And what emerged from it was an absolute unit.

"RAAAAAARRRRR!!"

A terrifying roar thundered through the room, so deep and powerful that even my stone walls seemed to tremble!

I stared in shock.

Because standing before me was a goblin unlike anything I had seen before.

He stood around two and a half meters tall, built like a beast given humanoid form. His massive frame resembled a green polar bear standing upright on two legs, with broad shoulders, a barrel-like chest, and muscles packed onto every part of his body.

Steam still rose from his skin, lingering from the intense heat generated by his rapid growth.

His arms were as thick as tree trunks, while his legs looked like stone pillars. Every muscle bulged with raw, overwhelming strength, as though he could crush a boulder with a single swing.

And yet, for all that terrifying physical power...

There was one hilarious detail.

A perfectly smooth, brilliantly shiny bald head.

Every other goblin stared at him in stunned silence.

Then...

"Shiiing!"

He flashed them a smug grin.

At the same time, the sunlight reflected brilliantly off both his bald head and his tusks.

"AAAHHH! MY EYES!!!"

Gopuro immediately raised both hands to shield his face from the blinding glare.

Meanwhile, I checked his status, eagering to see what’s there.

*****

[Citizen Status]

Name: Unnamed (Designation Required)

Race: Super Forest Goblin

Sex: Male

Rank:★★

Level:10

Vital Status

- HP: 500 / 500

- MP: 10 / 10

- Stamina: 500 / 500

Core Attributes

- Attack: 20

- Defense: 25

- Magic Attack: 0

- Magic Defense: 0

- Magic Capacity: 0

- Speed: 5

Skill List

- Brute Strength Lv.1

- Stone Skin Lv.1

- Heavy Hauler Lv.1

- Carnivorism Lv.2

- Regeneration Lv.2

****

"Oh god! What is this?!"

I could hardly believe my eyes.

This guy was the same evolutionary variant as the others. He was still a Super Forest Goblin, yet his stats were on an entirely different level!

His HP was absurd.

His Attack was monstrous.

And his Defense?

Absolutely ridiculous!

At only Level 10, he looked less like an ordinary Super Forest Goblin and more like a walking fortress. For a moment, I genuinely wondered if the System had somehow bugged out.

But the moment I opened his skill details, everything suddenly started to make sense.

Because there's one particular skill that was responsible for this phenomenon:

[Brute Strength Lv.1]

Type: Passive

Description: Dramatically increases the user's muscle mass and raw physical output. More muscles, more strength! MORE POWER!

However, it comes with some massive drawbacks.

Effect:

- Increases Max HP by +100%

- Increases Max Stamina by +100%

- Significantly increases Physical Attack and Physical Defense

Weakness:

- Takes +100% increased magic damage

- Magic Attack, Magic Defense, and Magic Capacity reduced by 50%

- Suffers from Extreme Gluttony: consumes 5× more food than normal!

*****

Aha... so that's the catch!

Those were some pretty serious drawbacks, not gonna lie.

The magic weakness in particular was brutal. Against a powerful spellcaster, this guy could potentially become a giant, slow-moving target.

Still, at least for now, it wasn't an immediate problem. So far, I hadn't encountered a single enemy capable of using magic.

As for the food issue...

Well....

Five times more food.... how bad could it really be?

Compared to the amount of value this absolute unit could provide simply by chopping wood, carrying materials, and doing other heavy labor, the extra food cost already felt more than worth it.

Honestly, even if he could handle only 20% more workload than a normal Super Forest Goblin, feeding him five times as much would still be a trade I'd gladly take!

Besides, his other skills were incredibly impressive as well.

[Stone Skin Lv.1]

Type: Passive

Description: Hardens the user's skin, muscle fibers, and bones, allowing the body to absorb physical impacts far more effectively.

Effect:

- Reduces incoming physical damage by 20% Grants +5% resistance to piercing attacks

...

Together with [Brute Strength], this skill combination was practically screaming one thing:

GIGATANK!!!

With this guy on the front line, who would be afraid of physical attacks anymore?

I just needed to remember not to use him to tank fireballs though.

That aside... what I needed most right now was his amazing third skill.

[Heavy Hauler Lv.1]

Type: Passive

Description: Greatly enhances carrying strength and load-bearing efficiency, making physical labor significantly easier.

Effect:

- When carrying objects, the load feels 30% lighter than its actual weight

- Reduces Stamina consumption from lifting, transporting, and labor tasks by 20%

...

Hell yeah!

Just half an hour ago, I had still been wondering how the heck I was supposed to haul that giant bear carcass all the way back home.

But now, with this guy joining in, the task should be easy as pie.

"From now on, you are Gopugiga!"

The moment I gave him his new name, his broad chest puffed out with pride. He then thumped one massive fist against it in acknowledgment.

"YES, BIG BOSS! I AM GOPUGIGA!!! RARRRRRR!!!"

His deep roar made my entire hall rumble. The other goblins clapped in cheers.

Honestly, the name fit him perfectly.

He was giga.

Pure giga!

And so, with his help, I was able to bring the entire bear carcass back just in time before sundown.

Not a single piece of that valuable carcass went to waste.

If you find any errors (non-standard content, ads redirect, broken links, etc..), Please let us know so we can fix it as soon as possible.



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

Gopugiga lowered the last massive chunk of the bear carcass with a heavy thud.

The moment it touched the ground, I swiftly stored it inside my inventory. At the very least, that should help preserve it for a little while longer. It had already been left outside for quite some time, after all, and I didn't want all that valuable meat and material going to waste.

The big fellow then dropped onto his butt with a long, exhausted groan.

"Haaah..."

He panted heavily, his massive chest heaving as he struggled to catch his breath. Each breath came through his mouth in loud, forceful bursts, sounding almost like a steam engine chugging away.

Nearby, the others were just as exhausted.

Every goblin was panting, their bodies drenched in sweat and smeared with sticky bear blood. Some leaned forward with their hands on their knees, desperately gasping for air, while others simply collapsed where they stood, too exhausted to take another step.

I would have loved to give them a few quests to dismantle the carcass immediately and start collecting all the valuable materials as soon as possible.

But first, these guys needed rest.

And food.

So I decided to let them take a proper break.

I bought several large wooden buckets of water for them to wash themselves. It was drinking-grade water, yes, but since it was already getting late, I didn't want to make them trek all the way to the river just to take a bath.

It was fine to be a little wasteful this once.

One by one, the goblins picked up the buckets and began pouring water over themselves, scrubbing vigorously with their hands to wash away the sweat, dirt, and bear blood covering their bodies.

Some even helped wash each other's backs and other hard-to-reach spots. Before long, the exhausted atmosphere had turned into something much livelier, with the goblins laughing and splashing water at one another like a bunch of playful children.

The good thing about the System was that I could simply top up their buckets whenever they emptied them.

There was no soap available at the moment, though, so getting all the stubborn blood off was rather difficult. Still, it wasn't like goblins had particularly high standards when it came to hygiene in the first place anyway...

As long as they were reasonably clean, that was good enough for now.

Eventually, once everyone had finished washing up and had a chance to catch their breath, I decided it was time for the most important part of the evening.

A nice, hearty dinner for everyone.

****

Moments later, everyone had finished resting.

Gopugiga and Gopuro headed outside first. A few minutes later, they returned carrying armfuls of logs and branches, piling them together to build a large bonfire.

I contributed some extra wood from my inventory as well.

Once everything was ready, I used my [Lighting Manipulation] skill to ignite it.

Fwwoom!

The fire roared to life, bright flames leaping upward and dancing wildly in the night air. The goblins gathered around the crackling blaze, their long shadows stretching and swaying across the courtyard with every flicker of light.

By then, night had fully settled over the forest.

The trees surrounding my castle had faded into dark silhouettes, and the forest beyond my walls had grown quiet. Countless stars glittered across the clear sky, while the crescent moon slowly climbed higher overhead.

But here, right in front of my walls, it was warm, bright, and full of life.

Soon, dinner was ready to begin.

I materialized the bear meat from my inventory. Gopuran, with her [Cooking Lv.1] skill, volunteered to handle the cooking, while Gopuro took charge of assembling the sandwiches.

The others gathered around to watch, practically drooling as their hungry stomachs rumbled like battle drums.

As the meat hit the fire, a rich, mouthwatering aroma quickly spread through the air.

Fat sizzled and hissed as it dripped onto the flames, sending little bursts of smoke curling upward.

The new citizens soon grew restless.

A few even tried to sneak pieces of meat away and eat them raw, but I stopped them and promised that the wait would be worth it.

And sure enough, just a few minutes later, the meat was ready.

Every piece had been grilled to perfection, golden brown on the outside with a delicious-looking charred crust.

Damn...

Even I was captivated by how good those pieces looked.

So this is bear meat...

The aroma was a little wild and gamey, yet incredibly rich and inviting at the same time.

I couldn’t help wondering what bear meat actually tasted like.

Would it be similar to beef?

Or perhaps more like boar?

I had never tasted bear meat in my life, and now that I was a castle with no mouth, I wanted to know even more badly.

If I ever get the chance to eat food again someday, I’m definitely going to try every kind of meat I can find!

Gopuran then distributed the food to everyone.

And the moment the meat reached their hands, they chomped down.

The goblins ate like a pack of starving beasts, moaning in bliss as they tore into the meat with wild enthusiasm.

"Mmmhm!!"

"Giii...!"

"This... this is good!"

Meanwhile, Gopugiga was operating on an entirely different level.

That guy wasn't eating. He was inhaling! eel.com

Every time he opened his mouth, nearly half a kilogram of meat disappeared without a trace in the blink of an eye.

At one point, he grabbed a foot-long sandwich...

... and finished it in two bites!

TWO!

Haha, what a monster!

Even I was a little stunned by that.

Still, the big guy absolutely deserved it. If it hadn't been for him hauling those massive chunks of the bear all the way back here, I would have been forced to leave at least half of the carcass behind.

So, if anyone had earned the right to eat like a bottomless pit, it was definitely him.

Just then, I suddenly remembered something important.

"Oh shit! Puran!"

I immediately called out to her.

"Use this too!"

From the Food Shop level 2, I purchased a small white rock about the size of a large egg.

"Crush this and sprinkle it over your food! It'll make it taste much better!"

Gopuran received the rock and tilted her head in confusion.

She cautiously licked it.

Her face immediately scrunched up in disgust.

"Blergh! Big Boss, is this edible too?"

"Yup! Trust me! Crush it and use just a little on your meat. Just don’t use too much!"

"Hmmmm..."

Gopuran stared at the white rock, still clearly skeptical.

But eventually, she accepted my words without further argument.

"If Big Boss says so!"

She placed the rock on a clean stone she had washed earlier. Then, grabbing another rock, she brought it down with a heavy smash.

The white rock broke into several smaller chunks.

"Keep going! You need to turn it into powder!"

"Okay!"

And soon, the white rock had been crushed into fine powder!

Gopuran took a small pinch and sprinkled it on a piece of meat just like my instructions. She then took a bite. Everyone else had been watching her intently for some time now.

And in an instant...

"MMMMMMHHHH!! DELISHHH!!!"

Gopuran gasped, her face lighting up with pure wonder!

"Big Boss, this is so delicious! I have never tasted anything like this before!"

"Haha! I told you!"

Because that white rock... it was salt!

S-A-L-T.

SALT!

Back when I upgraded the Food Shop to Level 2, I was overjoyed the moment I saw it. But I could only purchase it now that I had some points to spare.

After all, a tiny 200g chunk of rock salt...

75 points!

OUCH!

But with this, their meal had improved to a whole new level.

If I could somehow figure out how to get pepper, then it would be even better. It would be perfect!!!

And so, everyone started sprinkling salt on their food with eager little pinches.

Some of the sillier ones even put salt into their milk and drank it, faces scrunching up in surprise before breaking into delighted grins at the new taste.

Meanwhile, watching my citizens happy made me feel so warm inside too. There was a strange, fluttering sensation spreading through my stone walls.

Perhaps it's just the bonfire. Haha...

****

Soon after they had rested and eaten their fill, it was time to get back to work.

By my estimation, there were still around two tons of bear carcass left to be processed.

If you find any errors (non-standard content, ads redirect, broken links, etc..), Please let us know so we can fix it as soon as possible.

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

I opened the Daily Equipment Shop again.

Six F-tier items appeared.

But this time, I wasn't hunting for E-tier items. I was specifically looking for knives or daggers that could be used as tools to butcher the bear.

At the moment, we only had two knives with the [Butchering Lv.1] skill. I wanted to find enough tools so that all six goblins could work on the carcass at the same time.

That meant we needed four more knives.

They didn't all have to come with the Butchering skill, though. Even ordinary knives would do the job just fine.

Unfortunately, there wasn't a single knife in the current shop rotation.

I still had my free Daily Equipment Shop refresh for the day, and I could probably afford another two, maybe three, refreshes using Points if necessary.

But given how utterly terrible my luck tended to be, there was a very real possibility that I would burn through all those refreshes and still fail to find enough knives.

Please... please, Gacha God, give me a knife!

I prayed a total of five times for good luck.

After all, some kind of ritual, or at least a sincere prayer, was absolutely necessary whenever you were about to gacha, right?

But just as I was about to press the refresh button, an idea suddenly popped into my head.

Hold on... Wait a minute...

Do I even need a knife in the first place?

To test my theory, I bought an F-tier bone spear from the shop and handed it to Gopuro.

"Hey! Puro!" I called out.

"Yes? Big Boss?"

The goblin dude looked up at me after receiving the spear.

"Please break this spear into a knife."

"Eh?"

Gopuro tilted his head in confusion.

Then his gaze fell upon the massive chunks of bear carcass I had just taken out of my inventory.

"Ooooh!" he exclaimed, his eyes lighting up. "Big Boss, you need knife for butchering?"

"Wait... since when did you get this smart?"

"Heyy!!! What do you mean? I'm always smart!!!" Gopuro immediately protested.

Nearby, Gopuran giggled.

"Anyway, let's just do it."

Gopuro laid the spear across his legs and grabbed the shaft with both hands. Then, with all his strength, he bent it sharply.

CRACK!

The wooden shaft snapped cleanly.

The long spear was reduced to a short handle and a sharp bone tip, essentially turning it into a crude but perfectly usable makeshift knife.

I immediately checked the spear's description again.

And...

Voilà!

It had changed!

[Broken Spear Tip]

Rank: F

Description: The tip of a broken spear. Can be used as a knife.

Effect: None

Special Effect: Grants the user the skill [Backstab Lv.1]

****

IT WORKED!

The broken spear had lost one point of ATK because of the damage, but that was hardly important. As long as it could cut meat, it was good enough.

Now came the moment of truth.

"Gopuro, use the spear tip and try to butcher the bear!"

"Yes! Big boss!"

Gopuro immediately moved toward the carcass, crouched down, and began cutting into the thick hide with the sharp bone tip.

And to my surprise, it worked perfectly well.

A few seconds later, he suddenly perked up. He turned toward me, raised one hand, and gave me a big thumbs-up accompanied by a bright, toothy grin.

"HELL YEAH!"

I felt like a genius.

Who needed knives when you had a System that apparently treated broken weapons as completely different items?

And so, using my free refresh and one more paid refresh, I managed to obtain two more bone knives and one more bone spear.

This time, I figured I didn't need to go as far as breaking the spear. Simply removing the tip and attaching it to a short wooden handle was more than enough to turn it into a perfectly usable tool.

Then, if I needed the spear again, I could just reassemble it.

Now that everyone had their own tools, we could finally get to work.

I created the necessary quests, offering each goblin a reward of 10 Powerstones upon completion. With a tangible reward waiting for them, the six goblins immediately threw themselves into the task with renewed enthusiasm.

They worked surprisingly fast.

Their hands moved constantly as they cut, sliced, and separated the various parts of the massive carcass. Before long, my inventory began filling up with meat, fat, bones, and other useful materials.

Later, while they were still busy butchering the bear, I reopened the Daily Equipment Shop.

There was something else that had caught my attention during the previous refresh.

"Hehe... what a find!"

Apparently, that paid refresh had given me an E-tier weapon.

A shield!

From the preview, it looked like a heavy heater-style shield made of dark iron. I couldn't help wondering just how large it would be once I actually took it out of my inventory.

[Big Iron Shield]

Type: Armor

Rarity: E

Description: A big shield made from iron. Very heavy, but exceptionally strong and durable.

Effect: +2 ATK, +3 DEF

Special Effect: Grants the holder the skill [Shield Charge Lv.1]

[Shield Charge Lv.1]

Type: Active

Description: Charge forward while holding your shield, ramming into enemies with great force.

Effect: Deals physical damage and knocks back enemies in your path. Has a chance to stun on impact.

Mana Cost: 10 MP

Cooldown: 20 seconds

Cost: 90 Points

Needless to say, this was practically the perfect item for Gopugiga!

The big guy was already the strongest and tankiest among my citizens. Giving him a massive iron shield with a charge skill would turn him into an absolute frontline monster.

Yep. This is definitely going to him.

Now that I knew an E-tier item from the Daily Equipment Shop could appear for around 90 Points, I could finally compare that with the cost of creating one through my [Item Combination] tab.

It required 10 F-tier weapons plus a 50-Point fee to create a single E-tier item.

So, if I could get lucky and pull an E-tier directly from the shop, that was obviously the better deal. The problem was that the chance was only 5% per refresh.

I couldn't rely on luck alone.

Instead, I should buy F-tier equipment whenever I had spare Points. Even if I didn't need something immediately, I could always combine the leftovers later.

More importantly, having a stockpile of equipment would keep me from running into situations like this again, where I suddenly needed a specific tool and had nothing suitable on hand.

Right now, I didn't just need more Points.

I needed gear.

All six of my citizens needed proper equipment, and I wanted to get them geared up as quickly as possible.

If you find any errors (non-standard content, ads redirect, broken links, etc..), Please let us know so we can fix it as soon as possible.

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

Four hours later...

Everyone looked a little tired by now, but they remained focused and continued working with surprising efficiency.

There was still about 20% of the massive bear carcass left to process. And somehow, by constantly passing the knives with [Butchering Lv.1] among themselves, all six of my citizens had now learned the skill. *eel*.

Very good.

I was deeply satisfied with how things were progressing. If they kept using the skill like this, I wondered if someone might even manage to raise their Butchering skill to Level 2 soon.

Aside from that, now that everything was running smoothly like a well-oiled machine, I figured this was a good time for a little chit-chat.

After all, I was still curious about what had happened to these guys.

Were they really from the same tribe as Gopuro and Gopuran? And how had they ended up being chased by such a gigantic and dangerous bear?

So I asked them.

Everyone suddenly paused for a moment at my question.

Then Gopuflammy, the muscular goblin girl with bright red hair, spoke up.

"Yes, we were from same tribe. We were running too after our tribe was attacked by Dark Giant Spiders..."

Her voice was quiet and tinged with sadness, yet her hands never stopped moving. She continued skillfully separating the tough hide from the meat, every motion practiced and efficient.

As she spoke, I gradually learned what had happened to them.

******

It turned out those monsters, the ones that had attacked their tribe, were called Dark Giant Spiders.

They had earned that name for two reasons.

One, their bodies were pitch black, allowing them to blend almost perfectly into the darkness of the forest, and two, they were absolutely enormous.

They attacked in group, sometimes dozens at a time.

The largest among them could grow to over three meters tall, its combat power could potentially rival that giant bear we killed earlier.

Thus, there was no way a group of goblins could hope to fight something like that.

It had been an absolute massacre.

Their tribe had once been quite large, numbering more than 300 goblins. Yet when the Dark Giant Spiders attacked, most of them were slaughtered or captured and dragged away as food.

Only a handful managed to escape.

Gopuro and Gopuran were two of the lucky ones. They had eventually found their way to my castle a few days ago and became my very first citizens.

The other four had a slightly different story.

They had managed to escape by sheer luck and eventually stumbled upon a cave where they could hide. They figured they would be safe there, at least for a few days, while they waited for the spiders to move on.

Unfortunately, there was one small problem.

The cave already had an owner.

It was the den of that giant bear.

Yup.

They had unknowingly picked the worst possible place to hide.

When the bear eventually returned to its den, it probably wasn't expecting to find several helpless goblins occupying its home. Needless to say, it wasn't exactly happy about the unexpected guests.

The bear immediately chased them out of the cave and pursued them through the forest.

Their screams eventually caught Gopuran's attention, and she rushed over to help.

And somehow, after all that chaos...

We ended up killing the giant bear.

*****

"Damn..." I muttered.

Spiders and bears...

These guys had literally escaped death twice in a row.

Well, the Puro-Puran siblings had too, just in a slightly different way. Instead of a bear, they had been chased by wolves.

It seemed that once they left their tribe, the forest had become an incredibly dangerous place for them.

"Yeah, we were extremely lucky. We thought we were going to die in that cave and become bear food, but then you guys came and saved us," Gopuflammy said, turning toward Gopuro and Gopuran.

"Thank you."

She lowered her head slightly, her voice filled with genuine gratitude.

"You don't have to thank me, haha! We're brothers and sisters now! We protect and save each other!" Gopuran replied with a smile. Her face was still smeared with bear blood as she continued working on the carcass.

"If there's anyone you should thank, it's Big Boss!" Gopuro, who was squatting nearby and working on the carcass, chimed in. "Big Boss gave us power and weapons. If Big Boss wasn't here, we'd all already be dead!"

"Yeah!"

Gopuflammy looked up.

"Thank you so much, Big Boss!"

The other goblins quickly joined in, expressing their gratitude as well.

"Haha, well..." I said. "All I did was give Gopuro and Gopuran a little boost. They were the ones who actually killed the bear, not me!"

"Hehe." Gopuo smiled proudly, then suddenly his grin disappeared and replaced by a slightly jealousy face. "But my little sister was the one who landed the final blow though... grrrr," he growled.

"Wahahaha!" Gopuran puffed out her chest proudly and thumped it with one fist. "I'm the one who ended its life! Call me the Bear Slayer from now on!"

"Yes! Puran the Bear Slayer!" Gopugiga immediately chimed in.

"Yeah! sister Puran is the strongest!" Gopushadow did too.

The praise made Gopuran grin, but after a moment, her expression gradually became more thoughtful. She lowered her gaze toward her hands and quietly muttered,

"Thinking back... it still feels so surreal. I can't believe I was actually able to cut its head off like that..."

"But you did! And it was awesome!" Gopuro gave her a thumbs-up.

"Haha..."

Gopuran smiled again.

There was a brief pause.

"Actually..." she continued, her voice softer this time. "I never even imagined I'd be able to evolve like this. Let alone become this strong."

"Yeah..." The other goblins murmured in agreement, exchanging glances.

Gopushadow was the first to speak up again. "I still can't believe it. Not only did we manage to evolve, but we also became this almighty Super Forest Goblin variant!"

He looked up at me, his eyes filled with admiration.

"Come on, Big Boss! You brought us all these miracles, and you still say you're not a god?"

"Big Boss must be a powerful god! He just doesn't want to tell us!" Gopugiga added.

"Big Boss is already a god in my eyes," Gopuran said simply.

"Oh, come on, guys. I'm really not a god!" I protested.

Though, whether I was a god or not... perhaps that wasn't really for me to decide anymore.

Somehow, I realized that the tone of the conversation had gradually shifted. What had started as a discussion about their tragic past had become much brighter, filled with laughter, pride, and a growing sense of hope.

Still, there was something else I wanted to ask.

"Anyway..." I said, steering the conversation away from the whole god business. "I still have a few more questions."

"Go ahead, Big Boss. If we know the answer, we'll tell you everything."

"Those spiders. Do you know where they came from?"

I had already learned from the map Gopuro and Gopuran had drawn that the spiders came from the mysterious region marked with a skull symbol, clearly indicating a dangerous area.

But what exactly was that place?

Was it simply the spiders' territory?

Or was there something more to it?

My question immediately left the goblins exchanging uncertain glances. None of them seemed to know the answer.

Then, after a brief silence, a small voice spoke up.

"It's the Cursed Land..."

It was Gopuberry.

The cute goblin girl with wavy blue hair had been unusually quiet throughout the conversation. I'd assumed she was simply shy, but apparently, she'd been listening the whole time.

"Huh? A cursed land?"

"Yeah..." She nodded, her brows furrowing slightly as she searched through her memories. "I heard Grandpa say... it's a cursed, forbidden land. It's a place no goblin can enter and come out alive."

If you find any errors (non-standard content, ads redirect, broken links, etc..), Please let us know so we can fix it as soon as possible.

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

It turned out that Gopuberry was the granddaughter of a particular evolved goblin from their tribe. They called him the Shaman Elder, or simply the Shaman.

Apparently, he belonged to a special evolved goblin variant that sacrificed physical strength and muscle for greater magical power and wisdom. Every goblin tribe was supposed to have a Shaman, who acted as one of the tribe's leaders and handled all sorts of important matters, from managing the tribe and overseeing rituals to dealing with spiritual affairs and whatever other shaman-related shit they had going on.

That reminded me...

There used to be someone like that who had led a large group of goblins in an attack on my castle before.

An old, tall, and wrinkled goblin with colorful painted tattoos covering his face and body. He carried a long wooden staff topped with a deer's skull and looked exactly like the kind of guy you'd expect to find standing in the middle of some creepy ritual.

I still held a grudge against that shaman, actually.

That motherfucker had dared to put some kind of skill stick in front of my castle to prevent the goblins from coming to me, giving me so much trouble back then!

Though... I wasn't entirely sure whether he had belonged to another tribe or was actually Gopuberry's grandfather.

Not that it mattered anymore.

Anyway, back to the matter at hand.

Through Gopuberry's explanation, I learned more about the place they called the Cursed Land.

It was a forbidden region somewhere deep within the forest.

No one knew exactly how it had come into existence, but according to the legends passed down among the goblins, it had probably existed long before the forest itself. Perhaps it had even been there before the goblins had ever settled in this land.

As for what was actually inside it?

No one had any idea.

Not a single goblin who had entered the Cursed Land had ever returned alive.

Even the beasts of the forest, all the bears, wolves, birds, boars, and other creatures... no matter how powerful they were, seemed to avoid the place like the plague.

The only thing the goblins knew for certain was that the entire area was surrounded by a thick, unnatural mist, completely isolating it from the outside world.

And from time to time, strange sounds could be heard coming from within.

Deep rumbles. Distant roars.

Sometimes, even the mysterious growls and grunts of monsters.

"And that's all I know about the Cursed Land, Big Boss," Gopuberry said.

"Well, I even heard someone from the tribe say that there's an evil god living in that land..." Gopuro suddenly added.

"Yeah, it could be," Gopuberry replied. "But it's probably just a rumor. There's no way to know the truth, after all, since nobody can even go in there..."

"True," Gopuro agreed.

"Hmm..." I mused. "Very mysterious indeed."

To think there was such a creepy place hidden inside this enormous forest...

For some reason, I couldn't shake the feeling that there was something seriously wrong with that place.

"But what about the spiders?" I asked. "You said those spiders came out of the Cursed Land, right? Has something like this happened before?"

"Erm... no..." Gopuran replied, shaking her head. Then she looked toward Gopuberry, apparently seeking confirmation.

"Well... I think so too," Gopuberry said. "I've never heard of them before, either. They only suddenly appeared about a week ago."

"Hmm..."

If that was the case...

Then the situation might be far more serious than I had initially thought.

Because if these spiders really had emerged from the Cursed Land after thousands of years of isolation, then this sounded suspiciously like a dungeon break... or something similar.

After all, I had read plenty of novels about things like this, and I'd even written a few myself.

The basic premise was always the same.

A dungeon, normally sealed off from the outside world and filled with monsters, would suddenly experience some kind of abnormality. The barrier would break, the monsters would spill out, and before long, they would start invading the surrounding lands.

And those events were almost always catastrophic.

But what was causing the dungeon to break?

Usually, some kind of mana instability or some shit like that...

But in this case, with the Cursed Land and the Dark Giant Spiders, there was still far too little information to know for sure.

"But hey! There's nothing to worry about!" Gopuro suddenly cut in, his bright voice breaking through the grim atmosphere. "We have Big Boss with us, after all! Big Boss will protect us! There's no need to be afraid of those spiders!"

"Oh, yeah! You're right!" Gopuran immediately agreed for some reason. "Big Boss will wipe those spiders out of this forest like they're mere pests!"

And now, even the other goblins joined in.

"Yup!" Gopugiga agreed.

"Hehe, that's right! There's nothing to worry about!" Gopushadow added with a grin, flexing his small biceps as though he were already preparing for battle.

"Haha... You guys really think that highly of me, huh?" I chuckled nervously.

"Yeah! Because Big Boss is Big Boss!"

"Big Boss, we believe in you!"

"Okay, okay..." I replied. "I'll try my best. No matter what happens, mark my words, I will protect you guys."

Hearing that, all the goblins' faces lit up with trust and joy.

Meanwhile...

Well, that was literally the only response I could come up with for now.

On one hand, my castle was growing rapidly, and my citizens were becoming stronger every day. But I still wasn't sure whether I could actually handle those spider monsters if they came for us right now.

If it was true that each of those spiders was as strong as the giant bear they had just fought...

Then no.

Even my sturdiest walls might eventually break under that kind of force.

Especially if there wasn't just one spider, but dozens, or probably even hundreds of them.

But on the other hand...

These guys trusted me so much that I didn't want to disappoint them or crush their morale by saying something overly pessimistic. Especially after they had literally just returned from a near-death battle.

Besides, I was still growing.

I had the system with me.

And if there was one thing I'd learned since coming to this world, it was that the system was actually capable of producing miracles. (Even if it was still kind of a scammy system sometimes though...)

So, if we could just buy ourselves enough time...

Then maybe, just maybe, I could grow my castle and build an army strong enough to deal with it.

If you find any errors (non-standard content, ads redirect, broken links, etc..), Please let us know so we can fix it as soon as possible.