

Endless Leveling Done Right! #Chapter 2: The Protagonist Of My Own Story - Read Endless Leveling Done Right! Chapter 2: The Protagonist Of My Own Story

Chapter 2: The Protagonist Of My Own Story

My name is Alex.

Twenty-one years old, single and not ready to mingle.

I'm your typical otaku who doesn't touch grass and likes to play games, watch anime, and read webnovels.

It might seem like I have no life, but I'm actually a pretty amazing person, you know? In the game I'm currently playing, I'm even in the Top 69 of the Global Rankings... And it pays. Yes. Money. The true winner in life is me.

Though I'm not sure how long that will last.

You see, I am currently in a very tricky situation.

What kind? Tied reaaaally tight from top to bottom, squeezed inside a giant cannon aimed at outer space.

Are you wondering how I found myself in such a predicament?

Frankly, I also want to know! Desperately!

Here's what happened...

After finishing the tutorial quest in the game I play—which took a year, by the way—I went to the convenience store to buy snacks.

As I left the store, a little girl wearing an oddly familiar Red Riding Hood cosplay approached me.

Thinking that a little kid shouldn't be wandering the streets alone at midnight, I decided to be a good samaritan and ask her where her parents were.

But she told me she had no parents, so I felt bad for her. Out of guilt, I offered to escort her back to wherever she was staying.

Besides, it was dangerous to walk alone at night, even more so for someone as young as her.

It didn't take me long to realize that she looked like one of the mascots of the game that I played, Endless Leveling Online.

The one I had played for half an hour before going to the convenience store.

There had been quite an unexpected surprise in the end—a very amazing cinematic scene, which ended with the God of Games inviting me to go to the world of Arcana to forge my own destiny.

As an orphan, I didn't hesitate to click yes, even hoping I'd get hit by a truck and be truly taken to a fantasy world, like those main characters in the stories I read and games I played.

As expected, after clicking the 'YES' option, I was still in my chair.

And on the screen, the God of Games only smirked and said...

"I'll send someone to pick you up, so just wait."

After that, I was involuntarily logged out of the game.

Thinking it might just be some bug, I tried to log in again, but it wouldn't work, and I almost flipped my table in frustration.

Damn those devs. Did they make the tutorial quest nearly impossible to clear because they were too lazy to fix a bug?

I was ready to go to the world of Arcana, and become an isekai protagonist. Unfortunately, it seemed that the developers of the game had had fun writing the script and decided to mess around.

If this had been one of those isekai novel stories like, No Game No Waifu, I might have already been sent to Arcana, where I wished to transmigrate or reincarnate as the Protagonist of my dreams.

With these thoughts swirling inside my head, I walked down the familiar streets of the small town where I grew up.

I'd lived here all my life, and because of this brief moment of nostalgia, I couldn't help but think of the future.

I had been playing ELO for the past six years, and although I still loved playing it, I knew that nothing would change if I just remained inside my rented apartment, following the same routine over and over again.

While I was deep in thought, the little girl who looked very much like the game's mascot character, Lily, turned around and eyed me with a smile.

"Big Brother, you're a good person," she began, "but didn't anyone tell you not to talk to strangers?"

Frankly, I found her statement quite cute.

I was confident that, unlike a helpless little girl like her, I could handle any ordinary street thug because I had trained in boxing.

"But aren't you also talking to a stranger?" I asked back, lightly patting her head.
"Enough talk. Let's just go to your home. It's already late, and it's dangerous out here in the streets, especially at night."

"You're right, Big Brother." The little girl giggled. "It is indeed very dangerous at night."

She then started to hum as she walked toward the park near my apartment building.

Thinking she wanted to play on the swings for a while, I decided to follow her for a bit.

But when we entered the park, she turned around and asked me another question.

"Dear traveler, if you were given one wish, and one wish only, what would you wish for?"

For a brief moment, I remembered that one scene in the game.

The Goddess, Lily, who looked exactly like the little girl before me, had asked me this question after I had created my character in ELO.

My wish back then was...

"I wish I could—"

"I wish I could be the Protagonist of my own story," the little girl answered before I could finish my sentence. "Big Brother, this is your wish, right?"

"Eh? How did you know?" I asked in confusion. "Is my wish too common?"

"Not at all," the little girl replied. "But it's the wish of many people who are unsatisfied with their current lives. However, Big Brother, I think you and everyone else are having

a very big misunderstanding. All of you are already the Protagonists of your own stories."

A sigh escaped my lips before I looked at the stars in the sky.

"What's the point of living this sh*tty life story of mine?" I asked, raising my hand to reach out toward the distant sky. "I want to start over in a fantasy world where I can really be the Protagonist. Start an exciting adventure as I travel the world. Just like a player traveling the world of Arcana."

"Is that what you really want, Big Brother?"

"Yes. That's what I want."

"Then, in that case, I will grant your wish."

"Really?" I asked as I lowered my gaze to look at the little girl.

She was now holding a baseball bat from god knows where, and it looked like it would really hurt if it hit someone.

"Really," the little girl replied cutely.

Before I could react, she smacked me with the wooden bat. I collapsed on the ground in disbelief because I never expected something like that to happen to me.

Just as my consciousness was about to fade, I saw a little angel appear beside the little girl, holding a bow and an arrow.

"Lily, this is my first time kidnapping someone," the little angel said. "It feels so exciting!"

"I know, right?" the little girl named Lily replied, high-fiving the angel as if they had done something good.

That was the last scene I remembered before I found myself in this tricky situation that I was talking about earlier.

"Big Brother, do you have any last words?" Lily asked as she peered down the muzzle of the cannon to look at me.

"Mmh! Mmmmh!! Mphhh!" I tried to shout, but my lips were covered with duct tape, preventing me from saying anything.

"He's probably thanking us for helping him grant his wish," commented Cupid, who also peered into the muzzle. "He's such a nice guy even after we kidnapped him."

"I see!" Lily nodded with a smile. "Well, then, Big Brother. I hope you enjoy your new life! See you soon!"

"Mppphhh!! Mmphygghhh!"

My protests fell on deaf ears, but something caught my attention.

Rows of text appeared in front of me, and a lively AI Voice spoke inside of my head.

[Retrieving Character Data...]

[Character Data retrieved...]

[Character name "Alex Stratos".]

[Resetting Stats...]

[Resetting Skills...]

[Resetting Job Class...]

[Character Reset Complete!]

[Loading Story Mode...]

[Story Mode Loading Complete!]

[Choose your Level of Difficulty]

< EASY >

< NORMAL >

< HARD >

< NIGHTMARE >

< HELL >

[YOU HAVE FIVE SECONDS TO COMPLY!]

Although I was still confused, I knew that making a choice was very important.

With every bone in my body, I shouted my answer to make my intentions known.

"Mehhzee!"

"Mehhzee!"

"Mehhzee!"

[Um? I can't understand you. Can you repeat it?]

If not for the fact that I was tied up, I would have definitely face palmed because the AI voice sounded as if it was talking to an idiot who couldn't even speak properly.

"Mehhzee!"

"Mehhzee!"

"Mehhzee!"

[Hard Mode, right? Understood!]

This damned F*cker!

"Mach yuu!"

"Mach yuu!"

"Mach yuu!"

[I changed my mind. Hell Mode it is!]

As I was internally cursing the AI, which I believe to be a SYSTEM given to players as their guide in the game, the sound of a countdown reached my ears.

"5, 4, 3, 2, 1..."

[SIMP CANNON VERSION 2. FIRING!]

A moment later, I felt myself being launched from the cannon.

And then... there was no then.

Everything around me turned black as I fainted for the second time, not knowing if I would be able to open my eyes ever again.

Chapter 3: Status Open!

Poke

"Nghh..."

Poke *Poke*

"Ngh.. Mnh...."

Poke *Poke* *Poke*

"Nghh!"

Poke *Poke* *Poke* *Poke*

Alex's eyes snapped open, awakened from his dreamless sleep after feeling something press his nose repeatedly like a single-target whack-a-mole.

A tasty-looking custard bun was a welcome sight. It sat on his chest, though it unfortunately had eyes and a devilish smirk plastered on its face, which meant it couldn't be eaten.

The young man and the small creature held each other's gaze for a few seconds as if they were cowboys about to shoot each other with their guns at the ready.

However, this delicate balance was broken when the cute creature extended its little hand and poked Alex's nose not once, not twice, but three more times as if it was continuing its game of whack-a-mole.

Finally reaching the limit of his patience, Alex reached out to grab the little troublemaker with the intention of squeezing it to oblivion

But the little guy jumped back and landed a safe distance away from him. It then started giggling as if it enjoyed its little prank against the young man, who wasn't fast enough to block its poking spree.

"Why you little..." Alex was about to curse the small creature when he realized it looked very familiar.

Once again, the two stared at each other. Only after half a minute did Alex break the silence.

"Dim Dim?" he asked with uncertainty.

The little creature smiled before nodding its head to confirm Alex's guess. "Dim!"

"You're really Dim Dim?"

"Dim Dim~"

Although the creature could only say "Dim", Alex could understand its words perfectly.

Dim Dim was one of the Mascots of ELO, alongside the Goddess Lily and Cupid, the angel.

The Dim Sum God's role was to guide players in the game, teaching them what they needed to know about the world of Arcana.

Lily and Cupid had kidnapped Alex before, so seeing Dim Dim now wasn't that shocking. At least, this little one couldn't possibly chuck him inside another cannon... Hopefully.

Still, just to be sure, he raised a hand and gave his cheek a solid pinch, for nothing confirmed reality better than a little self-inflicted pain.

The immediate pain was enough to answer his doubts, allowing him to accept that everything that happened to him was real.

"Ow." Yep, 100% real. No dream sequence here.

With reality confirmed, Alex then propped himself up to check for any injuries on his body.

All he remembered before losing consciousness was getting yeeted to outer space after being stuffed inside a giant cannon.

Miraculously, he felt no pain whatsoever. Looking at his body, there were also no missing parts.

Taking a deep breath, he finally took in his surroundings.

The birds chirped, the wind rustled through the lush greeneries, and the clear blue sky stretched above him.

Smelling the fresh unpolluted air, Alex's mind cleared, though still a bit groggy as he had just regained his senses.

"Dim Dim!" Dim Dim called out to the young man, bouncing up and down as if asking him to follow its lead.

"Don't tell me..." Alex muttered as he followed the little guy hopping forward while humming a tune.

Dim Dim led the young man toward a hill. Alex's heart started beating wildly inside his chest.

Without waiting for Dim Dim to climb the hill, the young man ran past it until he got a better view of his surroundings.

"Arcana..." Alex's eyes widened in shock as he looked at the dozens of floating islands in the distance. "This world is really Arcana."

There was no way he would fail to recognize the scenery in front of him.

The Floating Islands of Thaloria was part of ELO's game poster, in which several characters stood at the exact hill he currently stood on.

These characters all looked at the Floating Islands of Thaloria, where their adventure would officially begin.

"Status Open!" Alex said with excitement.

As soon as he said those words, a blue window screen appeared before him, showing his Stats.

Alex Stratos

Age: 17

Mana: (N/A)

Job Class: (N/A)

Strength - 1

Intelligence - 1

Dexterity - 1

Agility - 1

Constitution - 1

Stamina - 1

Magic - (N/A)

Luck - 3

Available Stat Points: 15

AP - 0

Skills: (N/A)

[Difficulty Level: Hell Mode]

"YEEEEEEEEEES!" Alex shouted as he did a fist pump. He'd been fantasizing about this since he got an invitation from the God of Games, Eriol.

Sure, Lily had whacked him with a baseball bat, stuffed him into a cannon, and blasted him to outer space. Was it worth it? Yes.

"HAHAHA!" Alex laughed while raising his hands in triumph. "I'm finally here in Arcana! YOSAAAH!"

Dim Dim looked up at the overly excited young man and decided to celebrate alongside him by jumping in place and laughing with him.

Alex then grabbed the little guy and spun it round and round. Dim Dim giggled, finding being spun around fun.

After a few minutes, Alex finally calmed down.

He temporarily wore Dim Dim as a hat, freeing his hands as he checked his Status Page and Inventory Page to see if he missed anything.

"Everything else looks the same, except for this AP thing on my Status Page." Alex crossed his arms over his chest. "Dim Dim, what does this AP stand for?"

"Dim Dim." Dim Dim replied.

"Arcana Shop?" Alex frowned. "That didn't exist in ELO. What does it do?"

"Dim Dim~"

"I see. I need to say 'Open Arcana Shop' to access it."

As soon as those words left Alex's lips, a new page appeared in front of him.

His gaze landed on a few items displayed at the front of the shop, which made his heart skip a beat.

"L-Legendary Grade Equipment?!" Alex gasped. "And they cost one million Arcana Points each?!"

Although he had no idea how to gain Arcana Points, the fact that someone could purchase Legendary Equipment in a shop was an unbelievable discovery.

When he had still been playing ELO, it had taken an entire Guild to Raid a Boss Monster just to have a teeny-tiny chance to get Legendary Equipment.

The drop rate had been abysmally low that anyone with a Legendary Gear could easily become rich if they sold it in an online auction.

Alex flipped through the consumable page before moving on to the Weapon Tab.

After drooling at the stats of the Legendary Weapons, he switched to the Armor Tab, which made him want to start earning Arcana Points as soon as possible.

"Dim Dim, how do you earn Arcana Points?" Alex asked.

In the game, Dim Dim accompanied the players on their journey, telling them important information.

The Dim Sum God, who looked like a small custard bun, was the Encyclopedia who knew anything and everything about Endless Leveling Online.

And, just like Alex expected, Dim Dim gave him the answer he was asking for.

However, when he heard the Dim Sum God's answer, his excitement died down a bit.

"I need to clear the Tutorial Quest before I can earn Arcana Points." Alex frowned as he shifted his gaze to the Floating Islands of Thaloria, which also served as the tutorial grounds where players were taught to play the game.

Due to his excitement, he had forgotten that he was still at the starting point of his journey.

However, his face turned serious as he suddenly remembered the level of difficulty that the SYSTEM had chosen for him.

This level of difficulty was shining in bold red letters at the bottom of his Status Page, as if wanting to remind him that he was f*cked.

Really f*cked.

[Difficulty Level: Hell Mode]

'F*ck,' Alex thought as all the excitement he felt died down considerably.

To complete the Tutorial Quest, he needed to fight against monsters.

In Easy Mode, the monster a player had to face at the last leg of the Tutorial was a Goblin.

It was a Rank 1 Monster that could be found anywhere in Arcana.

In Normal Mode, a player needed to fight two of them.

In Hard Mode, you would need to fight three.

In Nightmare Mode, you would fight against four.

And in Hell Mode, you would need to fight three goblins and one Goblin Warrior.

A Goblin Warrior was the stronger version of a goblin. Although it was still a Rank 1 Monster, it was more powerful than any ordinary goblin.

"Dim Dim, I want to ask you a serious question," Alex said.

"Dim?"

"Is this still a game, or is this reality?"

"Dim." Dim Dim replied telling Alex that this was no longer a game.

Deep down in his heart, Alex had already accepted that this was no longer a game.

It was no longer a place where he could respawn if he died.

Faced with such a reality, the young man couldn't help but curse his SYSTEM a second time.

Instead of a fun adventure, he was now faced with a dilemma.

Alex didn't expect the first leg of his journey to be a battle to the death against goblins, whom he was about to face in reality for the first time in his life.

Chapter 4: Glass Cannon It Is

The tutorial didn't take place in the Floating Islands of Thaloria.

But it was the first destination a player could access after finishing the tutorial.

ELO's tutorial was as simple as it could be.

It taught players the basics—how to move their character with the keyboard and how to use the active skills.

Left-clicking the mouse was for normal attack, while right-clicking was for heavy blow.

Tapping the spacebar was for jumping.

Using the arrow keys should be common sense, but it was also included in the tutorial just in case. As for equipping weapons and armor, the players would have to set their own hotkeys.

Once the player had the controls down, there was one last challenge to clear before moving on.

And that was to defeat a common monster, which was a goblin.

In the game, the number and quality of enemies depended on the difficulty level selected by the player.

Unfortunately, Alex had been forcibly assigned to Hell Mode.

Still, he was a little hopeful. As Dim Dim confirmed, this was now his reality. It was no longer a game. It wasn't like they could replicate everything, right?

That said, the young man courageously scouted the path he was supposed to take, which would lead to the Floating Islands of Thaloria.

'Damn!' Alex cursed internally upon seeing three goblins and a Goblin Warrior blocking his path.

The humanoid monsters had green skin and were three feet tall. They also looked scarier in real life, making Alex feel intimidated.

Suddenly, his Monster Encyclopedia activated and appraised the monsters he was seeing for the first time in real life.

< Goblin >

Monster Rank: Rank 1 Monster

Monster Grade: Common

Health: 50/50

Attack: 1-10

Note: A goblin that you can find anywhere in Arcana. Known for abducting girls of different species to use as broodmares to increase their population.

< Goblin Warrior >

Monster Rank: Rank 1 Monster

Monster Grade: Common

Health: 100/100

Attack: 10-20

Note: A goblin who had learned how to wield weapons. An evolved form of goblins.

The young man decided to retreat after confirming that the information provided by the Monster Encyclopedia was the same as the one in ELO.

Right now, he wasn't confident he could fight them. So, he decided to return to his camp first, and think of a plan to get past his first hurdle in the world of Arcana.

After making sure that there were no other monsters in his surroundings, Dim Dim gave him a Storage Ring, which he accepted gratefully.

Alex instinctively knew how to use it the moment he wore it on his finger.

The ring had useful items inside, giving him some confidence that he could defeat the goblins that blocked his path.

'Let's see... a normal sword, a knife, a waterskin to store water, a pouch of beef jerky, a bedroll, two healing potions, flint, and steel to start a fire,' Alex thought. 'Same starter set as the one in the game.'

The young man then glanced at the sun, which hung in the sky, shining brightly above his head.

It was already noon, and Alex was starting to feel hungry.

But just as he was about to eat some beef jerky, Dim Dim approached him and summoned two bamboo steamers.

Each bamboo steamer contained two barbecued pork buns, which made Alex's mouth water.

"Dim Dim!" Dim Dim said with a smile.

"For me?" Alex asked.

Dim Dim nodded. "Dim!"

"Thank you, Dim Dim."

"Dim Dim~"

The delightful taste of barbecued pork spread inside Alex's mouth as he savored the food that he thought he would never get to eat again.

He hadn't eaten anything since his arrival in the World of Arcana, which made the pork bun taste even better.

After running around Arcana on an empty stomach, the bun wasn't just food. It was a holy grail.

A moment later, he heard a notification sound inside his head, and a blue status screen appeared in front of him.

< Food Buff >

— Barbecued Pork Bun

— Stamina regeneration increased by 30%

Duration: 1 hour

'Oh, so this part also didn't change.' Alex was pleasantly surprised that Food Buffs were also a thing in the world.

However, only special types of food had this feature, including Dim Dim's dim sums.

After eating his fill, Alex opened his Status Page to distribute his Stat Points. Without increasing his stats, there was no way to win against those ugly goblins.

But he was currently in a dilemma. Which stat parameters should he prioritize?

Since he had limited stats, and there was no reset option, he needed to ensure that he would only pick the useful ones in his current situation.

Back on Earth, Alex had been ranked 69 in the Global Rankings.

He had been lucky to acquire a Hidden Job Class called Shield Savant.

As the name implied, this Job Class mutated from the Tank class, which had allowed Alex to play an important role in a party.

Since it was a profession he knew like the palm of his hand, he wished to retain the same Job Class in the world of Arcana.

However, his Shield Savant wasn't any ordinary Tank.

It could shift from defense to offense and become a Glass Cannon as a last resort.

(A/N: A Glass Cannon is a character that hits hard but is very frail at the same time. Some players who have this build usually die after taking a single hit from a Boss Monster.)

Alex had managed to raise his rank with his ability to smoothly shift between defense and offense in the blink of an eye, allowing him to become one of the top players in the game of Endless Leveling Online.

'I need to fight four enemies, so tanking their damage is not ideal,' Alex mused as he looked at his Status Page. 'Glass Cannon it is.'

Alex Stratos

Age: 17

Mana: (N/A)

Job Class: (N/A)

Strength - 3

Intelligence - 1

Dexterity - 1

Agility - 10

Constitution - 7

Stamina - 7

Magic - (N/A)

Luck - 3

Available Stat Points: 0

AP - 0

Skills: (N/A)

[Difficulty Level: Hell Mode]

Alex added five points to Constitution because he would need to increase his health and Stamina.

Stamina was used in many things, including running and using physical skills to deal damage to the enemy.

In ELO, Constitution and Stamina would always have the same stats.

The only time they differed was when the player wore equipment that increased Stamina or received a Stamina-boosting buff.

The Constitution stat would increase by one point for every five points added to Strength, Intelligence, Agility, and Dexterity.

Since Alex had ten points in Agility, this automatically increased his constitution by two points, increasing his stamina as well.

In order to test whether the Agility Stat worked, Alex ran to check if he did get faster.

'There's a slight increase in speed, but nothing too special,' he thought. 'Maybe this will change when I increase my agility stat in the future.'

Strength in the game increased physical damage and allowed players to carry more items.

Naturally, the higher your Strength Stat, the stronger your character was.

Alex wasn't confident that his current stats would be enough to defeat the goblins, so he decided to use other methods to give him an edge against his enemies.

He only had one life, and there was no second chance.

But despite the fear and anxiety taking hold of his body and mind, Alex also felt excited.

Orphaned from a young age, he had learned many skills, including surviving in the wild.

He had hunted in the past and, with this knowledge in mind, he decided to fight the trolls by using the environment to his advantage.

'It's still too early to give up,' Alex thought. 'If this really doesn't work, I'll just change to Plan B.'

After making up his mind, he felt as if a weight had been lifted from his shoulder, putting a faint smile on his face.

Chapter 5: The Hunter Had Become The Hunted

With the preparations finished, it was time to make a move. Alex, with Dim Dim in tow, went to the Goblin Camp to check again.

The young man hoped the goblins had moved away from the teleportation gate, but... sure enough, they hadn't moved from their spot.

He had already expected this to happen though, so he wasn't too disappointed.

Instead, he asked the Dim Sum God to proceed with the plan that they had agreed on beforehand.

He hoped that the plan that they had made would be enough to overcome the first hurdle he had to face to venture forth in the world of Arcana.

"Dim Dim, let's do it."

"Dim!"

Without missing a beat, Dim Dim jumped off Alex's head and headed to the tree several meters away from him.

Alex's gaze followed the Dim Sum God, who nimbly climbed the tree and settled on one of its branches.

The strategy he had come up with required Dim Dim to stay somewhere hidden and serve as his extra eyes by letting him know of the goblins' position.

Then, he would take them out one by one.

A few hours ago, he had just been an ordinary human. He couldn't possibly become a seasoned warrior as soon as he transmigrated.

That was how ELO worked now.

Obviously, he wasn't suicidal, so fighting the goblins as a group wasn't an option.

This was no longer a game. He had to use any means at his disposal to ensure he wouldn't die before he lived his life to the fullest.

Gripping a fist-sized rock he took out of his storage ring, Alex snuck as close as possible to the goblin sleeping on the ground.

The other goblins were busy eating, so they didn't notice someone had wandered very close to their camp.

Suddenly, the sleeping goblin cried out in pain, alerting its comrades.

The other goblins immediately upped their guards, glancing at their surroundings.

The wounded goblin roared in anger as it picked up its wooden club and looked around with bloodshot eyes.

From behind a tree, Alex threw another rock, but it wasn't aimed at a goblin this time.

The rock landed on a nearby bush, creating a rustle that distracted the monsters who were now paying close attention to any disturbance around them.

The wounded goblin, eager to avenge itself, ran in the direction where the sound came from.

It didn't even bother waiting for its comrades, simply rushing out in pure desire to kill the creature who had dared to attack it in its sleep.

The Goblin Warrior and the two other goblins didn't move away from their spot. Unlike the wounded goblin who had lost its rationality due to its injury, the three of them didn't act impulsively.

'They're smarter than I thought,' Alex realized.

The young man remained still as he tried his best to calm his wildly beating heart.

As if sensing something, the Goblin Warrior raised its head and sniffed. It then pointed in the direction of Alex's hiding spot.

The two goblins then spread out, intending to encircle whoever was hiding behind the tree.

"Dim Dim!"

The Dim Sum God alerted the young man in time that the goblins had found his position.

Dim Dim's shout distracted the monsters long enough for Alex to make his move.

Without hesitation, he ran away as fast as he could.

'Time for Plan B,' Alex thought as his breathing quickened.

He could feel his adrenaline pumping inside his body and, to be perfectly honest, he also felt fearful because he was about to fight real-life monsters for the first time.

The Goblin Warrior roared as it chased Alex. The two other goblins followed suit.

But how could he be caught easily?

Alex jogged regularly, so he was confident about outrunning the goblins, who didn't specialize in prolonged running. Not to mention, he had added most of his stat points to Constitution, and Agility, raising his stamina in the process.

"Dim Dim!"

As soon as he heard Dim Dim's shout, Alex made a turn and pulled out the wooden spear he had prepared out of his storage ring.

He didn't bother to aim and poured everything he had into a single-strike spear thrust.

The Goblin Warrior was about to turn when it found itself facing Alex's attack at point-blank range with no chance to evade.

His wooden spear slammed into the goblin's chest, drawing blood.

A pained scream escaped the Goblin Warrior's lips as it tried to pull back from the spear embedded in its chest.

Alex didn't think it was enough, and he had no intention of wasting his surprise attack so easily.

He roared with determination, as if to reduce his fear, and pushed the spear deeper into the Goblin Warrior, hoping to worsen its injury.

Unfortunately, his strength wasn't enough, and he failed to pierce the spear through the monster's body.

"Dim Dim!"

Hearing the Dim Sum God cry out another warning, Alex let go of the wooden spear and ran away without a second glance.

A few seconds later, the two goblins caught up and found their leader wounded, with bloodshot eyes.

The Goblin Warrior talked in goblin language, ordering the two Goblins to pursue the human who was still within their sight.

Their leader had no intention of letting Alex escape. Once it caught him, it would tear him limb from limb.

Alex realized he had gained a good distance away from the monsters, so he suddenly stopped and looked in their direction.

It wasn't that he was tired or anything. He simply wanted the goblins to catch up to him, aiming to lure them away from the Goblin Warrior.

The strategy Alex had come up with was simple.

He would take down the goblins one at a time, ensuring he wouldn't get surrounded by them.

Slowed down by its injuries, the Goblin Warrior struggled to catch up to Alex, giving him the breathing space to focus on the two other goblins first.

A game of cat and mouse unfolded as the young man lured the two goblins toward the river, keeping himself visible but out of reach.

As he expected, the goblins had difficulties catching up to him, stopping to catch their breath from time to time.

Whenever they paused, Alex seized the opportunity and hurled rocks at them with accuracy.

Every time the goblins were struck, grunts of pain and frustration sounded, wearing them down and driving them mad.

But what could they do aside from angrily waving their wooden clubs at the cheapshot who seemed to treat them like target practice?

The young man was faster. With no way of being able to close the gap between them, the two goblins were starting to hesitate running after him.

The goblins might not be wise, but they were catching on. They knew they couldn't match the human's speed, and they were now reluctant to keep chasing him.

Alex noticed this and so gave them a reason to keep chasing him.

How?

He continuously hurled stones at them while calling them ugly.

The monsters might not understand the human language, but they could sense his mockery, making them forget about returning to their camp.

Alex had been a Tank in ELO, so he was very used to taking the aggro of the monsters his party was dealing with.

Suddenly, one of Alex's stone throws got lucky and hit the eye of one of the goblins, and perhaps dealt crit damage because the monsters staggered afterwards.

He had been targeting this particular goblin from the very start, and the moment the rock hit its eye, the monster collapsed on the ground and died, aggrieved.

[Level Up!]

[Map Feature Unlocked!]

[You have learned the Passive Skill, Improved Stone Throw, and Head Shot!]

[Improved Stone Throw]

— Stone attacks deal +1 bonus damage.

[Head Shot]

— Headshots inflict +5 bonus damage. This can apply to any other kind of attack aside from stone throws.

— Land 3 consecutive headshots to deliver an extra +10 bonus damage.

"..."

"..."

Alex and the last goblin stared at each other for a few seconds after the other goblin died.

Both of them were shocked at what had happened, so the sudden turn of events took them by surprise.

Both of them froze, eyes bulging like they couldn't believe what they'd just seen. Honestly, it was quite unexpected.

But the young man quickly recovered. His face displayed a wide grin, so wicked and unhinged that it sent a shudder down the surviving goblin's spine.

If someone that went by the name of Lloyd Fr*ntera saw Alex right now, he would definitely give the young man a 10/10 for that smile alone.

After killing a goblin, not only did Alex gain a level, but he also confirmed that his strategy worked.

"It's your turn," Alex said as he looked at the other goblin, who now seemed less scary than earlier.

The goblin realized it was about to get f*cked up real bad, so it screamed and ran away in fear.

However, how could Alex possibly let it go?

The monster was a walking experience point!

"Don't run!" Alex laughed as he threw a stone at the fleeing goblin. "I'm your friend!"

If the goblin could speak human language, it would have already cursed Alex and his nine generations for being shameless!

Despite its best efforts to escape, the goblin soon succumbed to the constant damage it received from the emboldened Alex, who had now turned the tables against the monsters hunting him.

How the tables have turned! The Hunter had become the Hunted.

A few minutes later, the unfortunate goblin died due to Alex's relentless pursuit. The young man's confidence rose further after killing his second goblin.

"Two down," Alex said as he looked at the Experience Bar located on his Status Page.

[Experience Points: 32%]

Now that he had finally killed two of the four goblins, the fear that had gripped him when he first encountered the monsters had lessened drastically.

Although he still feared them, he understood he could now kill them while keeping himself out of harm's reach.

Alex didn't feel much disgust or suffer any trauma from killing goblins for the first time.

He had learned to hunt animals in the mountains during his survival training, so he was not at all squeamish at the sight of blood.

Just like every human being, the young man was starting to adapt to his new reality.

He then drank some water from his waterskin, allowing him to recover from the exhaustion he accumulated after all the running he had done.

< Food Buff >

— Barbecued Pork Bun

— Stamina regeneration increased by 30%

Duration: 1 hour

Seeing that Dim Dim's Food Buff had once again activated, the young man headed back to the Goblin Camp to finish what he had started.

If he got lucky, he should be able to arrive at the Town of Thaloria before the sun set on the horizon.