

Gourmet 651

Chapter 651: The Battlefield of the Gods

Roll, roll, roll, roll, roll—

The grotesque and terrifying head of the Corrupted God fell down and rolled on the ground before slowly disappearing.

[You have killed the Corrupted God!]

[You have gained 31,977,413,135 EXP!]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

[...leveled up.]

[You have gained 97,413 platinum.]

[You have acquired the Corrupted God's Eyes.]

[You have acquired the Corrupted God's Hand Axe.]

[You have acquired the Corrupted God's Mysterious Bundle.]

[You have acquired the Skill Book: Evil God's Judgment.]

[You have acquired God's Mineral Vlad (5).]

Unbelievable notifications kept on ringing in Minhyuk's ears. His level also increased by as much as six levels after killing the Corrupted God.

'I even received around 97,000 platinum...?'

The amount of platinum that he received was completely unbelievable. With this amount, one would be able to establish a kingdom right away. On top of that, there were more than 76 legendary ranked artifacts that dropped from the Corrupted God. That was not all that was in store.

'God rank?'

There was one God-rank artifact, which was none other than...

?Total HP and MP volume will increase by 1.2x.

?Natural Mana Recovery Speed will triple.

?Cooldown will be reduced by 30%.

?INT will increase by 200%.

?Passive Skill: Stronger Strikes the More You Hit

?Passive Skill: Corrupted Goddess' Blessings

?Active Skill: Boom

For accessories, the special abilities attached to the item would usually be significantly weaker than the abilities attached to swords or armor. However, there was one thing that one should not overlook. With ten fingers in total, a player could wear multiple rings. However, there were restrictions. For players that just started, they could only wear one. For those that reached Level 100, they could wear two. For high rankers, they could wear three, and for those that were at a higher level than that, they could wear four.

Of course, the benefits were great. Assuming that someone could only wear five artifacts, rankers that could wear six would be able to display a much stronger power, even more so if it was a God rank item.

'*This is crazy...*' Minhyuk thought in awe. The fact that it could increase his HP and MP by 1.2x was already ridiculous.

The common way to increase one's HP and MP was to invest in physical STR and WIS whenever a player leveled up. However, even if one invested one stat point to their STR, their HP would only increase by 10. The same was true for MP, one had to invest one stat point to increase their MP by 10. Most of the time, players had no other choice but to supplement the increase by taking various quests or artifacts.

Of course, a ranker's HP and MP reserves were extremely large. However, anyone would want to have their HP and MP boosted, especially if they were hunting boss mobs. Just by wearing one of the five artifacts on his hand, those stats could be increased by 1.2x.

There was also an increase in natural mana recovery by three times. This meant that close combat players would not need to take mana potion, as long as they used this together with their artifacts. On top of that, there was a 30% cooldown reduction across the board, and a 200% increase in INT.

'*Isn't this an exclusive item for mages?*'

One would certainly think that way if they saw the item. Minhyuk was sure that there would be mages that would be twice as powerful if this artifact was available to them.

Finally, he came to the attached skills.

'*The name 'Stronger Strikes the More You Hit' is a bit...*'

For a skill that was attached to a God-rank ring, it had quite an absurd name. However, one should not overlook the skill just because of its name. The skill was even more cheat-like than the HP and MP increase effect.

Artifact Skill

?There's a 2% chance of reducing the cooldown of a random skill once an attack has been launched.

?There's a 2% chance of increasing the damage of a random skill once an attack has been launched.

?However, the damage of the randomly selected skill will be canceled after thirty minutes if no attack has hit the target after the initial strike.

?There's a 1% chance of increasing physical and magical attack and defense once an attack has been launched.

Just by attacking the enemy, one would be able to increase their stats or decrease their cooldown. For Minhyuk, there was no other way to describe this skill other than overpowered. On top of that, the skill Corrupted Goddess' Blessings could increase a random skill by 1.5x.

Minhyuk felt his breath quicken at the sight of the artifact. However he could not help but feel disappointed by the fact that it was something that he could not use yet. There was a restriction attached to the artifact where one could only use it after receiving the true recognition of three or more Gods. The artifact was very great, but there was no telling when it would be available for Minhyuk to use.

As for the Corrupted God's Mysterious Bundle, it was an item that could give the person whatever they were greedy for, just by inserting their hand inside the box. And even though Minhyuk had not checked it yet, he could tell that the 'Evil God's Judgment' was the item that could grant the power to use the Evil God's Books, the same power that the Corrupted God had used before.

The total value of all of the things that Minhyuk had gained from killing the Corrupted God was so valuable that it could not be measured with money.

Athenae was a game that was loved by everyone all over the world. It was in this game that astronomical rewards would be given whenever an opponent that had never been hunted before was killed. It was a source of joy for Minhyuk, and the same was true for all of the players.

Shake, shake, shake—

Unfortunately, most of the players' faces were currently dark and solemn.

The notifications rang for all of the players present as the second Battlefield of the Gods ended.

[You have participated in the Corrupted God's hunt!]

[The rewards that you will receive will be based on your contributions!]

[You have gained 586 platinum.]

[All of your stats have increased by +8!]

[All of your skill proficiency has dramatically increased!]

Everyone in the battlefield received the same set of rewards. The title: The One that Participated in the Corrupted God's Hunt was a very amazing title that permanently increased all of their stats by 1%, while giving them an additional 10% attack when fighting against evil and corrupted beings. However, no one was smiling.

Shake, shake, shake—

Alexander's hands were trembling from both shock and fear, Golden Mage Ali was down on the floor with a blank look on his face after losing all of the strength in his legs, and Death was staring at the place where the Corrupted God's body had disappeared from, dazed. Most of the people present were in a similar state. All of them felt an overwhelming and indescribable sense of helplessness.

Of course, the feeling of being helpless would always appear in their minds whenever they fought or watched beings or players that were stronger than themselves. However, this time, it was different. It was much worse than that. It was the lingering fear and the aftermath of the event.

Up until this moment, all of them had truly felt the fear of losing their qualifications of their God classes. They felt like they were being chased by a true and genuine murderer. All of the people present here were the world's best and strongest rankers who dominated the world. For most of them, this game was their only joy in life. Just the thought of losing their class was enough to bring forth severe anxiety in them.

"Ah... Aaaah, aaaaaaah..." One of the female players was crying, her body trembling fiercely even after the Corrupted God had died.

There was also the fear of another similar event in the future. That crippling thought threatened to consume them.

Meanwhile, the commentators began to chime in.

[We have not experienced what they had just gone through, so it is a bit hard to console them. Our idols, our role models are all feeling a deep sense of helplessness right now. It's understandable. What they experienced is scary and terrifying. Perhaps there would be some of them that would not be able to access Athenae for a few days.]

[It breaks my heart to watch this scene. From my point of view, Joy Co. Ltd. should not spare any effort, and compensate them for this incident. They should do their best to console these players.]

[However, despite this situation, there are still plenty of players that are curious about the rewards that Food God Minhyuk has received.]

[This is just the cold and harsh truth, a bitter reality. For everyone, the Corrupted God was the most dangerous and greatest existence that they have encountered.]

More people were curious about the rewards that Minhyuk had received than the helpless, disappointed and terrified rankers. It was only natural and that was what made reality bitter.

'I... I... Can I even continue playing this game?' Alexander asked himself.

This was a virtual reality game, but perhaps, it also truly tested the limits of the players.

Alexander's head fell down. Just like him, many people stared blankly in space, their faces filled with helplessness. Of course, if any of them were the star of the show and the one that received the main rewards, then they might not feel this helpless and disappointed.

'You will not be terrified because you're the one that cut down such a fearsome opponent,' Alexander thought of Minhyuk. Many players had the same thought.

Minhyuk would rise up and be known as the man that had slain the Corrupted God. He would be the people's idol and hero, while they would be known as the extras that fought beside him.

"Heooooook!"

Someone eventually choked up and let loose the tears that they had been keeping inside.

At that moment, Minhyuk spoke up.

"I, Beyond the Heavens' King Minhyuk, swear under my name and my throne."

None of the people looked up despite Minhyuk's loud and clear voice. Then, the notifications rang in their ears.

[Beyond the Heavens King. King Minhyuk has sworn under his name and throne!]

[If he fails to fulfill his promise, Beyond the Heavens' King Minhyuk will receive a penalty!]

The king's oath with his name and throne at stake was a very heavy one. Then, Minhyuk said, "I will distribute the rewards that I have received in this hunt with everyone here."

"...!"

"...!"

"...!"

"...!"

Everyone could not help but raise their heads the moment Minhyuk's words registered in their ears.

"Wh, what..." Alexander mumbled, disbelief written all over his face as he looked up at Minhyuk. The fact that he announced it to the world at this very moment meant that he could never break this promise.

Minhyuk slowly walked and looked among the God-class players, the antagonists, and his own envoys. Then, with a soft smile on his face, he said, "This is something that we all have achieved together."

The majesty and pride of the first king of Athenae was nowhere to be seen. Minhyuk was talking to them softly in a warm and considerate voice that gently wrapped around them.

"It's all thanks to everyone's efforts that I was able to kill the Corrupted God."

"..."

"..."

"..."

What Minhyuk said was the truth. It was because the God-class players had helped him that he was able to kill the Corrupted God. The only one that would be mentioned when talking about the success of this hunt was Minhyuk, and Minhyuk alone. However, with his words, everyone would be remembered.

"Never forget the great power that you have witnessed."

Yes, with just one sentence from Minhyuk, the viewers began to say...

[That's right. I thought it was really cool when I saw Alexander avoid the Corrupted God's attack and attack her right away.]

[What about Death? Even though he's fighting against the Gods, he still climbed on top of his bone dragon and attacked them.]

[Ali was amazing too. He sent hundreds of magical attacks like they were firecrackers to attack his enemies. He also used his defensive magic to protect his allies.]

[That's not all. Have you seen God of Buffs Rogal?]

Everyone began to talk. This time, they were not just talking about Minhyuk's splendid and awe-inspiring fight, but the actions of those that fought alongside him.

[The Food God is strong, that's an undeniable fact. However, there are also others that have shown that they are on a different level. They are strong and have amazing control.]

[I'm going to watch the video on repeat.]

[Good job. Everyone really did a good job here.]

[It was a battle that I will never forget.]

Alexander could not understand what Minhyuk was doing. He could have monopolized everything and taken the spotlight by himself, yet he was looking out for everyone and even talking gently to them. Did he not have an ounce of greed in his body? No. Minhyuk obviously had greed too.

'The one that will become a True God...'

Then, Minhyuk said, "Can you hear them?"

Everyone perked their ears up and listened intently to his words.

"Can you hear the applause that everyone from all over the world is giving to you?"

"..."

"..."

"..."

"Can you see it?"

"..."

"..."

"..."

"In the future, many viewers would look back on this intense and awe-inspiring battle that is recorded forever in history."

"..."

"..."

"..."

That was right. Minhyuk was consoling them.

‘We were terrified and afraid. However, we did it. We were able to overcome our fears. And we will be able to overcome the trials and ordeals that we will face in the future. We are afraid, but we have to move on.’

‘This is just like you...’ Ali thought, looking at Minhyuk with a small smile on his face. Death also grinned and raised his thumbs up at him.

Those that had collapsed on their feet slowly gathered their strength and stood up one by one. Yes. Even though they were left terrified and helpless, they were able to win a huge victory today. Minhyuk stood in front of them, watching them stand up one by one. The viewers that were witnessing this scene felt shivers run down their spine.

Minhyuk knew, *‘Words have power.’*

Words were amazing. What Minhyuk did could be considered to be sugarcoating his words. However, they could completely alter his relationship with others. It could even relieve the sadness for some, and become some sort of support to the grieving. Minhyuk might be young, but this was something that he had realized at a very early age after watching his father interact with people.

‘No way. Is he really thinking of splitting the rewards?’

Minhyuk had vowed under his name and his throne. However, some still wondered if he would really do it.

Clap— Clap, clap—

Someone started clapping which prompted the sound of applause ringing across the entire battlefield. As everyone’s representative, Alexander stood up in front of Minhyuk and said, “It was an honor fighting with you today.”

“It’s the same for me.”

At this moment, Minhyuk had received something from the God-class players and the antagonists that was far greater than the rewards from the hunt. It was the trust and confidence that they would gain victory as long as Minhyuk and his comrades were in charge. No amount of money could buy something that valuable.

Then, Alexander grinned and said, “We won’t get everything from you. Take half and we’ll split the remaining half amongst ourselves.”

‘Oh?’

Minhyuk chuckled.

“Please show us the list of the artifacts that you have acquired, Minhyuk.”

“Let’s just give it to the Food God...”

“No. The Food God has taken the initiative to give it to us. He’s already giving it to us and you’re not willing to take it? He said that he. Would. Give. It. To. Us.”

‘Huh? Huuuuuuuh? A, Alexander?’

It seemed like Alexander was already quite ahead of Minhyuk in this aspect.

Chapter 652: Banquet with the Gods

Minhyuk, who promised to share the rewards of the hunt with those that fought together with him, broke out in cold sweat after hearing what the grinning Alexander said.

“I thought you’d feel uncomfortable if we did not accept your offer. Ah. It’s not that we want to take it from you.”

‘No... Then, you don’t have to take it...’

“Hahahaha! As expected of Minhyuk, you have a heart that’s as big as the ocean!”

‘No, it’s narrow...’

That was right. Minhyuk had actually been trying to console them with words. Still, even if he was thinking that way, Minhyuk actually did not hate how the situation panned out. After all, they all fought beside him and deserved to receive those rewards. Alexander and the God-class players began to choose various items from the rewards list that Minhyuk read out loud to them.

‘You haven’t told us the most important ones yet.’

That was right. Alexander, as everyone’s representative, had declared that they would only take half of the rewards and share it amongst themselves. They divided gold, reinforcement stones, miscellaneous items, and legendary artifacts among themselves.

However, Alexander had left the best and most important rewards untouched. Of course, the other players also did the same. As for Minhyuk, he did not mention the Corrupted Goddess’ Ring and the Corrupted God’s Mysterious Bundle. Minhyuk looked at them with a small smile on his face, as he could feel their consideration towards him.

Minhyuk and the rest looked at each other as they waited for the Battlefield of the Gods to end.

“Food God, can I add you as a friend?”

“Ah. Of course.”

“Me too!”

“Me too!”

“By any chance, do you still have an empty seat in the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom?”

“Minhyuk, please add me as a friend too!”

At this moment, the God-class players and the antagonists realized why Minhyuk became Athenae’s best ranker. It even made them want to be close to him. The notification for friend requests kept on ringing in Minhyuk’s ears. In the future, if Minhyuk and the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom were ever in danger, not all of them might come but some would definitely run to help. Simply put, Minhyuk had gained connections with these God-class players, something money could never buy.

This heartwarming scene continued to unfold, while the final announcements rang out.

[You will be sent out of the Battlefield of the Gods soon.]

[The rewards for the Battlefield of the Gods will be sent at 12:00 noon the next day. We, at Joy Co. Ltd., acknowledge our inadequacy in this event and will be providing additional rewards to those that have participated.]

[The victor will be announced at the same time tomorrow.]

“Thank you.”

“Fighting beside you has been an honor.”

The God-class players and the antagonists said their farewells to Minhyuk and told him that they would see each other next time.

At the same time, the commentators continued their banter.

[Food God Minhyuk has obtained something that even money can't buy.]

[Adding these people as friends is something that all of the ordinary players dream of. And Minhyuk has received a lot of this today.]

[Perhaps some of them would knock on the doors of the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom.]

Even the viewers had things to say amongst themselves.

[This is very heartwarming.]

[It's thanks to Minhyuk that our idols have regained their energy once again, no?]

[I won't be able to forget the Battlefield of the Gods for a very long time.]

It was a very touching story.

Griiiiiin—

Minhyuk, who was logging out, was sporting a very devilish grin.

.

That evening.

Haze had heard about how Minhyuk shared half of the rewards that he earned in the Battlefield of the Gods. Minhyuk then told Haze, “Haze, I probably have to leave again to find a way to awaken Obren.”

“...”

Haze was Beyond the Heavens' prime minister. She completely understood Minhyuk's thoughts, perhaps more than any other person. However, she could not understand why Minhyuk did it this time.

The finances of Beyond the Heavens were not much. In fact, they did not even have any excess to give other people the rewards that they had earned. On top of that, Minhyuk even had to leave Beyond the Heavens for a while. It would take a lot of money to fill his absence. And since the

profits that they would gain through him would be cut off while he was away, the losses that they would incur might possibly shake the Beyond the Heavens' foundations.

"Your Majesty, I truly cannot understand. I'm sorry but I'm going to have to say something really harsh this time. Why did you have to share your rewards with them? Of course, I understand that maintaining close relations with them is very important, however you did not need to do that at all."

At her words, Minhyuk tilted his head in confusion, "Haze, what exactly are you talking about? Since when did I give half of the rewards that I obtained to them? I only gave them 5% of the rewards that I received."

"...What?" Haze looked at Minhyuk in confusion.

'What did he mean by 5%'

"You're not telling me that you only gave them 5% of what you got, right?" Haze asked, her eyes spinning.

However, Minhyuk just nodded and took a huge bag out of his inventory, before handing it over to Haze. Haze immediately opened the bag and checked the contents. It was filled to the brim with platinum coins that were shining brightly.

"...!"

Using her skills as a prime minister, she quickly checked the amount inside the bag.

[543,782 platinum.]

"...?!"

Haze felt her breath stagnate. Even someone at her position could safely say that she had never seen such a huge sum of money in her entire life.

"H, how... can you have this much money?"

"I'm not yet done though."

At the same time, various artifacts poured out from Minhyuk's inventory. There were plenty of legendary rank artifacts and legendary grade materials that poured out.

"..."

Haze licked her dry lips. There were around 324 legendary rank artifacts.

'Where in the world did His Majesty get them? Wait, don't tell me...'

"Are you going to leave for good?"

Haze was aware that the words 'closing the game' that the foreigners said meant that they were leaving Athenae. Was it because Minhyuk received a huge shock from the incident earlier?

However, Minhyuk shook his head, a devilish smirk plastered on his face, "Haze, do you still not know what kind of person I am?"

“...”

Haze pondered deeply over his words. No, that was not it. Minhyuk was not the kind of person that would recklessly give things away. It was the reason why he became the king of the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom.

“But Your Majesty, didn’t you fulfill the King’s Oath? The rewards that you received from killing the Corrupted God...”

“That’s right. I shared the rewards that I received from the Corrupted God. But you see, how about the rewards for killing the other Gods that the Corrupted God has summoned?”

Clack—

Haze finally realized. She had also heard about what happened in the Battlefield of the Gods. The Corrupted God had led several of the corrupted, the fallen and the crazy Gods. During the battle, the Corrupted God had summoned around twenty other Gods.

What had happened to those twenty Gods? Obren, who possessed Minhyuk’s body back then, made their heads explode one after the other. Then, who would receive their rewards? The EXP? The titles? It was of course Minhyuk who received it.

That was right. Thanks to Obren hunting those Gods, Minhyuk was able to level up 33 times today. The corrupted and fallen Gods were weaker than ordinary Gods, which meant that the rewards from killing them would also be inferior. However, there were twenty of those Gods.

In other words, the reason why Minhyuk graciously shared the rewards that he got from the Corrupted God was because he had already gained an enormous amount of funds and artifacts. He just did not say anything to them on purpose, which made Minhyuk look generous back then.

“Fufufufufufufufufu!”

“Hohohohohohoho!”

“Hahahahahahaha!”

“Ohohohohoho!”

Haze said, “I would believe it if you told me that you’re the God of Swindlers. Haha! You really look like a swindler right now, Your Majesty!”

“Hahahaha! That’s a compliment, right?!”

“Hohohohoho! Of course, of course!”

Just like that, the bond between the king and his vassal grew even stronger. It was a very beautiful night.

What would one get from being a True God in Athenae? There were two representative things. The first one was the temple, while the second was the power of a true God. One would be able to have

their own temple constructed and have people that believed in him and followed him. It was the coolest thing in the world to some people.

Minhyuk was also looking forward to it, waiting for midnight to come in excitement. Finally, at midnight, various notifications rang.

[The rewards for the Battlefield of the Gods will be given based on your contribution.]

[You have participated with your qualifications as a God!]

[You have gained 43,873,551,311 EXP!]

[You have leveled up!]

[You have leveled up!]

[You have gained 34,316 platinum.]

[You have completely overwhelmed and defeated your enemies in the Battlefield of the Gods. You were also the biggest contributor in the second Battlefield of the Gods, in killing a being that was almost impossible to defeat!]

[All of your stats have increased by +20!]

[You have proven your qualifications as a True God!]

[For the first time, the player, Food God, has reached the True God class!]

[All of your stats have increased significantly!]

[Once you come back after the Banquet with the Gods, you will be able to acquire one of the True God Food God's skills!]

It did not mean that one would become super strong once they became a God. If one became a God, then they would be able to open a new path and enjoy new contents. The first such content was none other than the Banquet with the Gods.

Not long after, an explanation rang in his ears.

[Banquet with the Gods.]

[Whenever a new Continental God or a new God is born to the world, the Gods would gather together and enjoy a banquet!]

[Please declare your position as a God there!]

[Something special might happen if you increase your favor with them!]

Minhyuk turned into light and disappeared from sight.

The Banquet with the Gods was a place where the great, arrogant Gods gathered. Unfortunately, the Absolute Gods and God of Origin Athenae never participated in this banquet. It was up to them if they wanted to attend or not.

These Gods usually divided themselves between the Gods with the original blood of the Gods, and Gods that were human, and Continental Gods. Many of these Gods valued bloodline very highly, ignoring the Continental Gods and taking their position for granted.

It had been a very long time since a Continental God appeared in the world. However, what would happen if one showed up? Well, they would be forced to face the Gods that hated their existence.

Crackle—

The Gods' representative figure was God of Fire Ardees. His position among the Gods was actually very low and transparent. He could not create anything special like the non-combat Gods, nor did he have a powerful force like the combat Gods. He was literally someone weak and easily overlooked. However, he was always bullying the rookies. He was the kind of God that was strong against the weak and weak against the strong.

Whenever Ardees moved in the Banquet with the Gods, a flame that was not hot would float along with him. God of Fire Ardees had long played the role of the God that trampled the Continental Gods, acting on behalf of all the Gods.

None of the Gods stopped him since they also wanted to see such a play. After all, these grinning Gods were all just pretending to be elegant on the outside. On the inside, they were all vicious and nasty. On top of that, there were Gods up above them that were looking after Ardees, that was why he was proud and arrogant. It was especially so this time.

'A God that likes to eat?'

It seemed like they were going to be presented with a situation where they would be able to laugh to their heart's content! Unlike the God of Blacksmiths that was good at making weapons, or the God of Buffs that could give special powers to others, what could the God that liked to eat do? What in the world was that God's ability? Were his believers all obese? After decades of no new God being born, a funny one had suddenly appeared.

Among these Gods, only a few of them had seen how Food God Minhyuk fought in battle. It was because they were not really as free as what others thought. Not knowing the depth of his opponent's power, Ardees intended to bash the new guy's head and turn him into the banquet's object of ridicule and mockery.

'We have to put him in his place from the very beginning.'

A God that liked to eat would definitely be very weak. Besides, the only God that God of Fire Ardees was afraid of was the Sword God. Although the Sword God was a Continental God, he was so powerful that even the ordinary Gods were afraid of him. On the contrary, for that God that liked to eat, Ardees could already imagine how he became a True God.

"Hiyaaaaaaa... I can tell why the Banquet with the Gods is called the banquet with the Gods."

Then, at that moment, a man's voice rang in their ears. The man was smacking his lips and gulping at the sight of the delicacies that even the Gods present did not even touch. Then, the man smiled happily as he happily filled his plate with food.

Ardees instantly knew who the man was. He was fully convinced of the man's identity. After all, he was a face that he had never seen before. There was also the fact that he was acting crude in front of food. He also had little divine power in his body. Ardees watched as the man sat in one place, looked at his plate in admiration and started devouring his food.

The man also greeted the Gods that came near him, "Hello! Hello. Nice to meet you."

'A polite and courteous God? What a funny thing to be. Actually, isn't it only natural for humans like him to crawl and bow like that since he is in the presence of Gods?'

Under the expecting gazes of everyone present, Ardees stood up and approached the man. He looked at the pathetic and pitiful Continental God's plate, then Ardees slapped the plate that the man was eating from, its contents spilling on the ground below.

Clang—

Just like that, the plate fell down and the food contained within rolled around on the ground.

Now, Ardees.

Ardees had predicted what would happen next in his head. The man in front of him would crouch on the ground and pick up the plate and clean up the food himself. Once that happened, Ardees would crush the man's hands with his feet and show everyone how terrified and pathetic the man was.

Shake, shake, shake—

Just as Ardees expected, the man's body began to shake. The man shivered as he looked down on the food that had rolled on the ground.

'Ah. This is a really funny situation.'

A petty and pathetic human was shaking in front of the Gods!

Ardees sneered and said, "How dare a mere savage Continental God like you participate in the Banquet with the Gods and tarnish..."

Baaaaaaaang—

To be exact, Ardees tried to speak, but before he could even finish, the fist of the God that loved to eat made contact with his face, causing Ardees to fly away from the strong impact.

Then, the man said, "This f*cking bastard."

"..."

"..."

The man definitely just called a God a f*cking bastard.

Chapter 653: Banquet with the Gods

The class system among the Gods was extremely clear. In this system, God of Fire Ardees' status was at the lowest rank. Also, not all of the Gods could view the humans' world and most of the ones with the qualification to stand here were those that were already born Gods.

However, there was one thing that could not be overlooked. Ardees was the God that had trampled on and bullied the Continental Gods that had ascended and become True Gods, causing them to never come back to this place again. Although Ardees remained in the lowest rank because of his nasty and fiery temper, the Gods could not deny his strength.

To everyone's shock, Ardees was sent flying back and rolling on the ground after receiving the punch of the God that Loves to Eat.

Crackle—

Blazing flames that were several degrees hotter than normal ignited around Ardees, who failed to hide his fluster and embarrassment. It quickly turned to fury. At the same time, plenty of the Gods present were enjoying the sudden turn of events, finding it funny,

[The God that Likes Drinking Alcohol clicks his tongue at your foolish behavior.]

[The God that Likes Sculpting smiles at you in interest.]

[The God that is Good at Playing Instruments shakes his head and looks at you pitifully.]

On the other hand, Ardees wanted to be the one pummeling the insignificant Continental God, before kicking him out of this place like a measly and dirty dog.

In fact, Ardees was very close to the God of Death. He played the part of a pet dog in front of the God of Death, wagging his tail to show his loyalty to him. The most important factor here was that the God of Death was a figure akin to an Absolute God.

Even among the Gods, the title of an Absolute God was sacred and holy. Even if a thousand of them fought against an Absolute God, the power that such a God could exert would be beyond their imaginations. Their words were the law and a slight move of their hand could change the world. As for Ardees, who was acting all chummy and sticking close to an Absolute God, the Gods found it completely unimaginable. That was how huge the influence of an Absolute God was.

Crackleeee—

Ardees, who had rolled around on the ground, slowly lifted his body up. He knew that the Gods were sneering and jeering. He was also aware that they wanted to witness the great spectacle of him beating the measly Continental God up. To everyone else, what happened was just a fluke, a false bravado of the new Continental God. However...

'Why, why does it hurt so much?'

Ardees failed to quickly come back to his senses after receiving enormous damage from the Continental God. To think that it was only from being hit by the man's bare hands.

'I think this is around the same damage as when I got beaten up by Spear God Aerdes...'

There were many that criticized Ardees and his unpleasant behavior. Among those that criticized him was Spear God Aerdes. Aerdes might have given up her position to someone else and had already stepped down from being the Spear God, but she was still an influential and powerful figure among the Gods. She was a God that none of them dared to look at! That was why Ardees was shocked that the damage he received from the man was similar to the damage from Spear God Aerdes.

Soon, Ardees came back to his senses. He was someone that was close to the God of Death! He even bowed his head and greeted the God of Death yesterday. Of course, the God of Death just passed by him without even giving him a glance, but the fact that a God like him could give his greeting like that was enough to give Ardees great influence and power.

‘How dare you do that to me, someone that’s close with the God of Death...!’

Simply put, Ardees wanted to say, *‘Do you know the God of Death?! I’m close with him...!’*. So, he jumped up as hotter flames flared out of his body.

‘There’s definitely some kind of power hidden behind that fist of his!’

Ardees’ thoughts finally cooled down. There was no way that the man in front of him could deal this much damage just by using his ordinary fists alone. For a moment, Ardees wondered if the God that Likes to Eat could accumulate damage in his fists by eating food.

Ardees looked at the God that Likes to Eat and told him coldly, “Hitting a God in the Banquet with the Gods, are you aware of the terrible consequences of your actions?”

“You have done something that you should never have.”

All of the Gods looked curiously at the man after hearing his words. They wondered why the Continental God that just became a True God punched Ardees. Was he someone that climbed the ranks of the Gods because he had a grudge against Ardees? Perhaps that was the reason. After all, if it was not due to resentment, which fool would dare to hit a God in the Banquet with the Gods?

Then, the man looked at the food on the floor and said, “You have made my beef steak fall on the ground.”

“...?”

“...?”

“...?”

The Gods looked confused, while the man actually looked like he was about to cry. Everyone could not hide feeling embarrassed for him. What was this crazy guy saying?! However, what was even funnier was the sincerity of the man’s expression.

As for Ardees, he was sure that this crazy bastard was just one piece of shit. He was confident that the blow was definitely a fluke.

“Come at me, you fiery potato bastard.”

“...”

‘Does this guy compare everything to food??’

But then, Minhyuk said, “Ah. That was my mistake. I can’t compare you with food. That would be putting food at a disadvantage and wronging them.”

“...”

Ardees was rendered speechless. He was already thinking about fighting this m***erf**king bastard. However, the man continued to provoke him, "It was not that hard, no? Hitting you? It seems like the Gods are nothing. Come at me."

Ardees broke out into a fit of laughter after hearing the man's words. The other Gods joined in as well. A measly Continental God actually thought that he could go against them. No matter how much of a lower rank God Ardees was, he was still a God. The flames that his body released could instantly turn thousands of human soldiers into ashes.

Then, a very interesting thought flashed in Ardees' head.

"Everyone, today I will make this foolish Continental God realize his own insignificance, as well as the greatness of us Gods," Ardees said, trying to incite the Gods as he looked back at them. All of the Gods nodded in interest.

"But before that, I would like to propose some interesting conditions."

"Conditions?"

"Fufufufu. That really sounds interesting."

"However, shouldn't the Continental God agree to it first?"

Ardees looked at the God that Likes to Eat and said, "I will bet my 'God's Recognition'. You will get it if you win a fight against me."

"Hooo?"

"God's Recognition?"

God's Recognition had a slight twist. The increase depended on the God's degree of recognition, and the person would receive an effect that was similar to a permanent increase in stats. For the lower-ranked Gods, there was also a chance that their class would change if they received several God's Recognition. However, as a restriction, the Gods could only give their recognition once every hundred years. As for lower ranking Gods like Ardees, they could give their recognition once every thousand years.

"As for you, why don't you bet on your qualifications as God?"

"Ohoooo!!! That sounds really fun, no?"

"Qualifications as God, huh? This is getting more and more interesting."

"Hohohohoho!"

"Ahahahahaha!"

For the Gods, this was just another source of fun and entertainment. As for Ardees, he thought to himself viciously, *'This bastard, if you're a True God then you have to agree...'*

"Sure, let's do it."

"...?!"

“...?!”

“...?!”

The man readily agreed. At the same time, Ardees immediately heard a voice in his ears.

[The bet with Food God Minhyuk has begun.]

[Food God Minhyuk has bet his qualifications as a God.]

[You, the God of Fire, have bet your ‘God’s Recognition’.]

[The God’s Oath has been fulfilled in the name of the greatest God, Athenae.]

The corners of Minhyuk’s mouth were curled into a smile.

Before the Banquet with the Gods.

Minhyuk appeared in the vicinity where the Banquet with the Gods would be held and met an unexpected person. She was none other than the God of Cooking, Arlene.

Arlene was one of the Absolute Gods and had told Minhyuk a lot of stories. She had told him about the resident bully, the God of Fire, and the other Gods that would laugh and sneer. She warned how Minhyuk would be at the center of everything. Arlene had appeared to give him advice and that was to be careful.

After hearing those stories, Minhyuk came to realize that it did not matter whether they were Gods or not, things were the same everywhere. However, he also thought that this was an opportunity.

That was the reason why Minhyuk punched Ardees when he came to him and deliberately flipped his plate. Was Minhyuk, the king of a nation, a hot-tempered person? Not at all. Everything had been planned.

Besides, Minhyuk also needed the God’s Recognition so that he could fulfill the requirements for use of the Corrupted Goddess’ Ring. Furthermore, it was not him but Ardees, who brought up God’s Recognition first.

Then, Ardees said, “Ah, there’s something that I forgot to mention.”

It seemed like Ardees truly wanted to show off his greatness as a God. However, Minhyuk just found it funny.

“I have received the favor of the God of Death.”

“...”

“...”

“...”

The impact of those words were very great. There were even some Gods that trembled from fear. After all, the God of Death was an Absolute God and the object of fear for some. Of course, everyone here was already aware of this fact. However, the name alone could strike fear in their hearts.

“Do you think you can beat me just like that?”

Baaaaaaaaaaaaang—

Then, at that moment, the space beside Ardees was torn apart as a huge golem engulfed in fire appeared in front of everyone. The golem was around three meters in size.

Gods had their own envoys, and they would appear using their God's power as an individual. In fact, the God would receive a correction effect in their power whenever they summoned an envoy.

A buzz arose in the area.

“From what I heard, Ardees’ fire golem is like the father of all golems. Wasn’t that fire golem one of the biggest contributors in driving out the Corrupted God?”

“You’re right. That’s absolutely correct. Ardees and his fire golem was the one that drove away the Corrupted God’s subordinate, the God of Combat.”

“We have to admit that Ardees carries great power.”

The Gods were in awe. The fire golem that helped in driving the Corrupted God’s subordinate, the God of Combat, had made an appearance! As for its level, it was hard even for the Gods to measure it.

At the same time, the Gods felt pity for the pathetic Continental God, who would definitely be turned to ashes under the collaboration of Ardees and the fire golem.

However, the man grinned, “In the world below, I am the king of men.”

“What? The king of men? Pfft... hahahahaha!”

“Ahahahahahahaha!”

“Bwahahahahahahaha!”

Everyone burst into laughter after hearing Minhyuk’s words. He was a mere king of men, but he dared to utter those words in front of the Gods?!

Minhyuk took an ‘Almond of Subordinates’ from his inventory and placed them in his mouth.

Crunch, crunch, crunch—

Queen Iris never forgot to send over some Almond of Subordinates to Minhyuk whenever it was time for tribute. This Almond of Subordinates was an item that allowed Minhyuk to summon one of his vassals.

“Since you summoned one, then I will also summon one knight. Will that be alright?”

“Bwahahahahahahaha! You’re going to summon a mere human knight?”

“Can that human even make eye contact with us here?”

“This is really interesting! Very, very interesting! Puhahahahahahaha!”

Minhyuk grinned as he looked at the guffawing Gods. Then, he asked, “By any chance, do you guys know about the Spear God?”

“...?!”

“...?!”

“...?!”

Minhyuk was already aware of the Gods’ hierarchical system thanks to Arlene’s detailed stories. All of the gods that heard the two words ‘*Spear God*’ immediately shut their mouths.

‘Why did such a name come up?’

Spear God Aerdes was a high-ranking God that stood above the rest. Of course, all of the Gods present here expected the successor that inherited her power to be equally strong. Perhaps that person would even be the closest to becoming the next Absolute God.

Minhyuk looked at them as he coldly declared, “Summon Spear God Ben.”

[The One that inherited Aerdes’ divine name, Spear God, has appeared. He will now participate in the Banquet with the Gods!]

[The One that inherited Aerdes’ divine name, Spear God, is the Food God’s vassal!]

“...?”

“...?”

“...?”

“...?”

“...?”

In just an instant, the entire area was plunged into silence.

Ben, who was summoned under the intense and glaring light, appeared in front of the fire golem.

Bang, bang, bang, bang, bang, bang!

His hands moved swiftly and just like that, the fire golem’s sturdy chest was cracked and torn to pieces. It did not take that long for the golem to collapse on the ground, helpless and useless.

Vwoooooooooooooong—

“Your Majesty, you have called for me?” The Spear God said, getting down on one knee in front of the Continental God, the very same Continental God that the Gods believed to be pitiful, barbaric, and uncivilized.

“...”

“...”

“...”

Everyone’s mouth snapped shut at the sight.

Chapter 654: Banquet with the Gods

The Gods' hierarchical system could be simply described like this: Athenae was at the peak, above the Absolute Gods, who were akin to emperors. Spear God Aerdes was like a king below that. Although they were all Gods, their world followed a strict and indisputable system.

Among the Gods, Aerdes could be considered to be the one that had remained in her position for a very long time. She remained steadfast and firm in her throne and was one of the candidates of becoming an Absolute God. But one day, she left her position and entrusted it to a human legend before disappearing.

Rumors circulated among the Gods. Some said that the human had defeated Spear God Aerdes. There was also speculation about how Spear God Aerdes was left dying from an unforeseen accident, which forced her to relinquish her seat and entrust it to the human.

However, there was one thing that everyone was sure of. All of them firmly believed that the one that inherited the position of the Spear God was a great person. Otherwise, it would not make sense for them to inherit Spear God Aerdes' powers.

At this very moment, the new Spear God, an old veteran, knelt on one knee and paid his respects to the Continental God that they were mocking, the very same Continental God that liked to eat and was a mere king of men.

"Your Majesty, you called for me?"

Vwoooooooooong—

Ardees' fire golem had been instantly knocked down the moment the old man appeared, a feat that revealed his greatness as the Spear God.

'Did, did he just say Spear God?!'

'The Spear God that we have heard about from the rumors is that man's vassal?!'

'What the hell? What kind of ridiculous bullshit is that? How can a God be the vassal of a mere human's... no, the recently ascended Continental God?!'

Everyone was in disbelief. Of course, it was only natural. After all, it was rare even for the Gods to have other Gods serving under them.

The one that was most surprised was Ardees. He knew best about the fire golem's capabilities and powers. Its HP volume was ridiculously high, and that was not all.

'An ordinary God's attack would never be able to pierce through its defenses.'

Of course, it was only proper to categorize these so-called Gods below someone at the Spear God's level. However, there was one thing that Ardees was certain of, if that Spear God remained standing there, then he would never have a chance of defeating the one hailed as the Food God.

'This can't be happening... are you telling me that I won't be able to touch that trivial man just because of his subordinate?'

Ardees turned despondent. The vassal was preventing him from beating the shit out of the weak and trivial human.

“Your Majesty, do you have any orders for me?” Ben asked politely, still kneeling down on one knee.

Ben had been Minhyuk’s vassal for the longest time. As such, he was very quick in deducing what the boy wanted to do. He quickly glared at all of the prying eyes that surrounded them. Everyone that met his gaze all shuddered and turned away.

Then, Ardees said, “This fight will be considered void. I summoned the fire golem to show our true worth. But you summoned the Spear God? Don’t you think that’s beyond ridiculous?”

Ardees tried to get out of the situation to the best of his abilities. However, Minhyuk just looked at him as if he found it funny and scoffed, “You can do it, but I can’t? There’s nothing more ridiculous than that.”

“I clearly said that I will fight you. I never mentioned that I will fight the Spear God.”

Minhyuk frowned, “Ho, that sounds like you’re telling me that you can win easily if the Spear God is not with me.”

“Isn’t that only natural?” Ardees sneered. He was sure that this was the reason for the man’s confidence. Ardees was very confident in his assumption. The man in front of him was only able to be so arrogant because the Spear God was by his side. Perhaps it was the Spear God that helped him reach the realms of the God.

“Is that so? Ridiculous. I’m pretty confident that I will be able to knock you down in just one hit.”

“So, you’ve gone mental.”

“You have started to talk arrogantly just because you summoned a God.”

“As expected of a human. Such arrogance...”

It was not just Ardees, even the other Gods clicked their tongues at Minhyuk.

At the same time, a brilliant idea came upon Minhyuk.

“Hoo... Hooo... Hoo... Hooo...”

Minhyuk began to breathe heavily, his feet stomping heavily on the ground.

Crack! Crack, crack, crack!

“You’re belittling me?!?! The great me?! The king of a nation and a human that became a God?!?!”

Then, Ben, who was quick on the uptake, quickly scrambled up. Having seen Minhyuk’s wink that the others failed to see, he said, “Your, Your Majesty... please, please calm down. You can’t grow angry like last time. The last time you got angry like this, you killed plenty of your subordinates, did you not?”

“Don’t stop me, Ben. I won’t let any of these people that have belittled me go!”

“Your Majesty, I beg you. Please calm yourself down!”

At that moment, Ardees and the other Gods realized that Minhyuk had an anger-management issue. When they thought back, they realized that he had also punched Ardees in the face just because Ardees flipped his plate over. No matter how they looked at it, it was definitely an anger management issue.

Finally, unable to hold his anger back, Minhyuk raised his voice, “All of you! If I make up my mind, I will be able to wipe all of you in one go! Fine, let’s do this. The Spear God will not join me in this battle!”

“Your, Your Majesty!!!” Spear God Ben’s eyes grew wide. He shook his head fiercely as he grabbed Minhyuk’s arm.

However, Minhyuk’s face, which had turned red from anger, shook him off and said, “What do you think?! Come on, let’s do it 1:1?!!! However, what are you going to bet in exchange for not allowing the Spear God to participate in this battle, huh?!!”

Then, at that moment, a woman stepped forward. The woman was none other than the Eode, the Incarnation of Water. Just like Ardees, she was one of the elements’ incarnations. She felt that one of the elements’ incarnations were being belittled and ignored. Not wanting to see such a person humiliate an elemental incarnation, she stepped forward and said, “How about I bet my God’s Recognition?”

“Hahahahahaha?! Is that so?! You’re joining too, huh?!” Minhyuk said, laughing arrogantly.

Immediately after, another figure, the one that resembled a golem, stepped forward and said, “Then, I will bet my God’s Recognition too.”

It was none other than the Incarnation of Earth.

Minhyuk’s eyes shone as he heard their words, *‘Things are going better than I thought?’*

Everything depended on how one would lead the situation. Since it was the Gods that started it in the first place, approaching and belittling him, Minhyuk would respond in kind. He would take full advantage of the situation and make sure to press those high noses down to the ground.

[After discussion, the bet with Food God Minhyuk has been revised.]

[Food God Minhyuk has bet his qualifications as a God.]

[You, the God of Fire, have bet your ‘God’s Recognition’.]

[Based on the revisions, Spear God Ben will not participate in the battle with Food God Minhyuk.]

[The Incarnations of Earth and Water have bet their ‘God’s Recognition’.]

Ardees cackled, “Wahahahahahahah! Bwahahahahahahahahaha!”

He could not help but laugh out loud at the turn of events. After all, the human could not control his anger and made an entire mess of his situation. It was truly worthy of ridicule.

All of the Gods present laughed. They all believed that the human's special power lied in summoning a God. However, today, this man will lose his qualification as God and would no longer be allowed to enter this place.

Thud, thud, thud, thud—

At that moment, someone began to walk among the Gods. Seeing the Gods' part and making way, Ardees could not help but wonder about the identity of the being that was making their way among them.

Finally, a figure emerged among the Gods. Ardees could not help but choke on his breath the moment he saw the face of the figure, *'The, the God of Cooking?!'*

The God of Cooking was one of the Absolute Gods, who rarely participated in the Banquet with the Gods. However, someone of great status like her suddenly appeared here. Because of that, the surprise that Ardees felt was much greater. On top of that, she was standing behind Minhyuk.

"Long time no see."

"Yes, it's been a long time."

"...!"

"...!"

"...!"

"...!"

Everyone present was rendered silent. They finally understood the reason why Arlene stepped in this place and attended this event.

'She's, she's, she's, she's acquainted with that bastard?!'

'No, are you telling me that she attended this event just because of him?!'

The God of Cooking, one of the Absolute Gods, was an existence that no one could easily be friends with, even if they wanted to be one. However, she appeared here and was even looking at Minhyuk with a gentle smile on her face.

Then, Arlene said, "On behalf of Mother Athenae and everyone present here, I give you our thanks," before lifting Minhyuk's hand and kissing its back.

"..."

"..."

None of them could make sense of what was happening. Arlene continued, "May mother's blessings always be with you, who made the Corrupted God fall into eternal rest on behalf of everyone."

"..."

Everyone froze in place the moment those words were uttered. Except for the higher ranking Gods, the rest of the Gods in the world of the Gods were unaware of the fact that the Corrupted God was

laid to eternal rest. However, with those words from Arlene, they came to realize that Minhyuk, the man in front of her, had killed the Corrupted God.

It was completely unbelievable. How could a mere human kill the Corrupted God? The God of Information opened his mouth and said, “No way, are you telling me that he is the king among the humans that has sealed the Great Demon, as well as hunted and killed both Demigod Asura and one of the Six Monster Gods’ Elizabeth...”

“...”

“...”

The feeling of shock deepened at those words. This was more so the case for Ardees. His eyes had grown wide as he thought, *‘That’s, that’s not true... that’s impossible.’*

He wanted to deny it. No, in fact, he wanted to get out of this situation right now. But before he could do so, a bright light burst from behind them as a throne was created.

[God of Origin, Mother Athenae, has graced the Banquet with the Gods with her presence.]

“...!”

“...!”

The greatest God had made an appearance. As she appeared on her throne, she said, “The first foreigner to receive my recognition and my first knight...”

“...”

“...”

“...Congratulations on ascending and becoming a True God.”

“God’s Knight?”

“Him?”

“None of the Gods has ever been God Athenae’s Knight though...”

The impact and significance of a God’s Knight was very huge. This was because becoming a God’s Knight meant that they had received Athenae’s recognition. It was a very unbelievable achievement that not even the Gods have achieved.

Minhyuk showed courtesy towards Athenae and said, “Thank you.”

Minhyuk knew that he would have probably lost in the battle against the Corrupted God if Athenae had not appeared to help him. That was why he was truly grateful to her.

“...This is impossible,” Ardees shook his head in disbelief.

The God of Origin and one of the Absolute Gods had come to congratulate a human’s ascension to being a True God. That was completely ridiculous. However, with this, there was no way that Ardees would be able to avoid the duel against the man.

Ardees then thought, *‘Perhaps that man was only able to defeat the Corrupted God because the God of Origin descended, made him into her knight and shared with him her power?’*

This was the only way that it could make sense. At the same time, Ardees knew that he should immediately launch an attack. He thought of using his most powerful attack, Flaming Explosion. It was an attack that allowed him to turn his opponent to ashes upon summoning a gigantic bead of blazing flames. Ardees was confident that he would be able to kill that man with this one move.

“Flaming...”

Unfortunately, he was unable to finish his sentence.

“Sword of Absolute Death.”

Stab!

“...?”

Ardees did not even realize that a powerful sword was already stuck in his head.

Stab, stab, stab, stab, stab, stab!

Immediately after that, hundreds of sword blades appeared and stabbed through his body. However, it did not end there. The man did it again.

“Sword of Absolute Death.”

Stab—

Stab, stab, stab, stab, stab, stab!!!

Crackle, crackle—

The arrogant God, Incarnation of Fire Ardees, had persecuted and trampled on many Continental Gods. He was also someone that has committed plenty of evil acts by borrowing and using the influence and power of the God of Death. This very same God died within four seconds, turning into ashes and disappearing into the wind.

At the same time, notifications rang in Minhyuk’s head.

[You have received three God’s Recognitions!]

[You have lifted the seal of the Corrupted Goddess’ Ring!]

Chapter 655: The First Priest

?Total HP and MP volume will increase by 1.2x.

?Natural Mana Recovery Speed will triple.

?Cooldown will be reduced by 30%.

?INT will increase by 200%.

?Passive Skill: Stronger Strikes the More You Hit

?Passive Skill: Corrupted Goddess’ Blessings

?Active Skill: Boom

Minhyuk had acquired the Corrupted Goddess' Ring after killing the Corrupted God. However, considering that he needed to gain three God's Recognition as the requirements to use it, Minhyuk thought that he would only be able to use it in the future.

But by some stroke of luck, Minhyuk was able to win three God's Recognition in the Banquet with the Gods.

[You have killed the Incarnation of Fire.]

[The Incarnation of Fire has done many evil and atrocious deeds as a God.]

[You have gained 1,203 platinum.]

[You have acquired a Fire Golem's Golem Fragment.]

[There are no special penalties incurred since the two Gods competed fairly.]

[However, fire attributed and fire-related monsters will have higher hostility toward you.]

After killing the God of Fire, notifications rang constantly in Minhyuk's ears.

[The God that Controls Water glares at you as if she wants to kill you.]

[The God that Rules the Land cannot hold back his anger toward you.]

[The God that Makes Good Pottery cannot hold back his anger toward you.]

There was no penalty from the system. However, the stinging glares and the anger that the other Gods were showing him were showing up as notifications. After all, he had killed one of the Gods. However, Minhyuk was aware that if he let them trample over him right now, they would probably trample over him over and over again in the future.

'There's a chance that I won't be able to come up here again.'

That was right. In the end Minhyuk was a player. His chances of coming back here were extremely low. Perhaps this event where he climbed to the realms of a True God was his only chance of coming here.

Looking around, Minhyuk could see the contempt in the eyes of several Gods. However...

[God of Origin Athenae looks at all the Gods.]

All of the Gods threw their gazes to the ground at the notification.

[God of Origin Athenae has always been aware of the atrocious and evil deeds that the Incarnation of Fire has committed until this very moment.]

[God of Origin Athenae has always been aware of the God's foolishness, observing as the Incarnation of Fire wreaked havoc and committed evil deeds.]

"..."

“...”

Everyone was rendered speechless. God of Origin Athenae was fully aware of everything that they had done so far, and she made sure to let them know about it. Because of that, the Gods would not be able to send any more stinging and contemptuous gazes toward Minhyuk in the future.

There was a high chance that Athenae descended here not only to see the newly ascended Continental God, but also to punish the other Gods for their misdeeds. The punishment came almost immediately after that.

[God of Origin Athenae is bestowing punishment upon you.]

[All of you will be locked up in God's Prison for three days.]

With Athenae's order, the Gods turned into ashes and disappeared. Then, Arlene, who was looking at Minhyuk, winked at him before warping away and disappearing from his sight.

The only ones left were Minhyuk and Athenae. Minhyuk looked at Athenae, the supercomputer and the greatest God in Athenae. As for Athenae? She silently looked at Minhyuk for a long time.

[Athenae looks at you with a soft smile.]

Athenae was sporting a motherly smile on her face, the action prompting the following notifications:

[You will now leave the Banquet with the Gods.]

[You have acquired 'Athenae's Bundle' after receiving your qualifications as a True God.]

[A temple will be built in honor and praise of you after receiving your qualifications as a True God.]

[A statue will be built to worship you inside your temple after receiving your qualifications as a True God.]

The Gods and the priests that followed them were two inseparable existences. In the event that one became a God and no one came to serve them or spread their word, then they might not be able to become a True God. As for the priests, the existence of their God was something that they trusted and followed wholeheartedly. Even if their God did not do anything or did not make any achievements, the priests had to trust and follow them sincerely.

Right now, a priest had reached a dilapidated temple. It was crumbling, with its beams being supported by both intact and bent pillars. There were even cobwebs all over the place, with clouds of dust blowing up with every step one took. Even the place where the God that one should serve was supposed to be worshiped was completely covered in dust, the texts written on it completely incomprehensible.

Priest Ambron no longer believed and trusted in God. The only reason why he came here today was because of a mysterious dream. In that dream, he faced an unknown God that guided him to this place.

'Is God trying to humiliate me once again?'

Priest Ambron, as someone that had served a God before, knew that a God had called himself here. However, Ambron hated the existences that called themselves 'God' more than anybody else. After all, if there truly was a God, then he would not live such a miserable and terrible life.

'The first priest.'

Yet he came here, because he was appointed as the first priest.

These were the priests often chosen by other Gods to serve them: Priests without a God that they believed in and served, priests whose God's records had been completely erased from existence, or priests that have left their God because of a sense of betrayal.

The dream that Ambron had was related to becoming the first priest. The unknown God's power had chosen him to become the first priest of his own temple. However, he had his misgivings.

"A Continental God, huh?"

Ambron had never seen such a shabby and dilapidated temple in his life. Temples that suddenly appeared like this were most likely caused by the appearance of a Continental God.

Rumble, rumble, rumble, rumble—

Then, at that moment, the ground shook as the place in front of Ambron vibrated fiercely. Ambron was aware of the meaning of this phenomena. This was an announcement that a new owner had appeared in the temple.

A huge statue slowly appeared in front of Ambron. The statue of the God held a fine sword in one hand and a frying pan in the other. There was also a very beautiful cape draped over God's back, while a pristine full plate armor protected his body. Even his face looked so handsome to the point that he could be called the God of Beauty.

However, Ambron just snorted, *'Arrogant God bastard. Damn bastards that only look at us as if we're mere ants.'*

Ambron gnashed his teeth when he saw the statue. *'All the Gods are arrogant and prideful beings! They treat human lives like ants!'* These were the thoughts that were deeply ingrained in Ambron's head.

He quickly took out a hammer and declared, "This God will eventually bring despair to plenty of humans."

Ambron looked up at the statue with a face filled with anger.

"The God that I served before was the God of Mercy. I have been taking care of my sick mother since I was young. My mother had always prayed to the God of Mercy to ease her sickness and I had always prayed with her," Ambron mumbled to himself, feeling the need to take out his suppressed anger on this statue to relieve his hatred.

"Once I grew of age, I chose to serve the God of Mercy. Perhaps my faith and belief reached her? So, she gave me an oracle. I immediately followed her oracle, digging up the herbs that I believed would cure my mother of her sickness."

Ambron had gone away for days on end. But when he came back with the herb that the God of Mercy had told him about, he was greeted with a house that was burnt and torn apart.

“My sick mother, my father that worked in the smithy, my four siblings... all of them were killed by bandits the moment I left. They even burnt the house down. The worst part? The bandits left unscathed, escaping the grasps of the authorities. If she truly was watching over us, then she should have prevented it from happening. At the very least, she should have punished them,” Ambron said, tears welling up in his eyes.

Everything would have turned out differently if he had just been there. Ambron, with his innate strength and abilities as a priest, was someone that stood above the ordinary masses. If he had been there, then his family would not have died. However, the God of Mercy sent him to a place far away to get the herb. Because of that, everyone was killed.

“And what did you do?! You did not even apologize to me?!!!”

There had not been even a hint of apology at all. What did those Gods do for the humans that served them? They had never shown themselves at all. They always hid behind their temples, only sending out oracles and conveying their thoughts through God’s Message.

As for the God that Ambron served? No, she did not even deem him worthy of her words nor her apology. She no longer gave him an oracle nor visited him in his dreams.

Ambron walked in front of the statue with a hammer in hand. He was fully aware that he was doing this just to vent his anger. After all, he was just a barbaric man that hated Gods down to his very core!

Vwoooooooooong!

Just like that, Ambron slammed the hammer down as hard as he could.

Special Players Management Team.

“Team Leader...”

“Huh? Yeah, I saw,” Team Leader Park said, nodding at Employee Lee Minhwa’s words.

The Food God’s newly constructed temple and Ambron, the chosen first priest. Fate was so cruel. The fact that Ambron was chosen as the first priest was a complete coincidence. The biggest problem here was the fact that Minhyuk would have a completely hard time winning the heart of this priest. However, it was also an interesting development.

“Ambron, one of the Absolute Supreme NPCs, is chosen as Food God Minhyuk’s first priest...”

Ambron was the candidate that would supposedly become ‘Death’s Priest’. The story about Death’s Priest was about a priest that hated God. Upon his death, he sold his soul to the God of Death in exchange for great power, becoming a priest that went against the Gods. Death’s Priest Ambron was

believed to be the strongest out of the eight Absolute Supreme NPCs. Today might be the day that Ambron would awaken as Death's Priest.

"Don't you think it's unsuitable to call him the first priest? After all, he wouldn't be the Food God's priest," Lee Minhwa said.

However, Team Leader Park remained silent.

Vwoooooooooong—

They watched through the monitor, as the temple shook and trembled as Ambron swung the hammer. The temple was truly old and dilapidated. They could see dust and debris falling down from just a simple slam of a hammer.

"...He's truly a crazy NPC," Team Leader Park murmured, a bitter look on his face. However, he completely understood where Ambron came from.

Vwoooooooooong—

Simply put, Food God Minhyuk was just inadvertently caught up in the whirlpool of Ambron's rage.

Vwoooooooooong—

Crack, crack, crack—

A crack rang somewhere around in the temple, a telltale sign that the temple was about to collapse.

Then, at that moment, Lee Minhwa asked, "But, just what if, what if Ambron chooses to serve the Food God?"

"..."

Team Leader Park looked at the monitor at the question and said, "The Food God will have a first priest that's as powerful as the popes of the Athenae Religion."

Vwoooooooooooooooooong—

Ambron felt delighted as he watched everything fall apart. A bright smile curled at the corners of his lips as tears streamed down his cheeks.

'Damn Gods! Eat shit! I will drag this temple down and lay in my eternal rest here!'

Vwoooooooooooooooooong—

A rain of dust and debris began to fall down.

Vwoooooooooooooooooong—

Finally, the huge pillar behind Ambron fell.

Thud, thud, thud, thud!

Then, the ceiling began to collapse and fall apart. Only then did Ambron let go of the hammer in his hands. He looked around, his eyes lifeless and despondent.

Ambron was fully aware that the Gods would not listen to cries and pleas. After all, the Gods had always hidden themselves behind their temples, only spouting nonsense with their voices and treating human lives like ants.

The Gods would not even care even if he died. He hated them, loathing and abhorring their very existence. It included this God in front of him.

“Was he called the Food God...?”

Vwoooooooooong—

The part of the ceiling right behind Ambron fell down creating a thick cloud of dust. Not long after, the part of the ceiling above him began to fall down and collapse.

“You’re definitely the same as them,” Ambron mumbled as he looked at the debris that was coming his way.

[The great God answers your call!]

Thump—

Just then, Ambron, who had closed his eyes, heard the falling ceiling hit something. However, he did not feel any impact.

‘Am I dead?’

There was only one word that Ambron wanted to hear from them before his death.

However, Ambron was not dead. Someone appeared and hugged his body, protecting him from the falling debris. The man, who was bent over to cover Ambron, stood up.

Crack, crack, crack, crack—

At the same time, the debris and wreckage from the collapsed ceiling fell down. Only then did Ambron see the figure of the man. The man definitely had the same features as the statue from before. This man was looking at Ambron. The Gods had never answered his cries and pleas. They never even told him the words that he wanted to hear.

However, this God, with his gentle eyes, sharp jawline, and straight nose, looked at him and said, “I don’t know if this is something that I can say.”

“...”

The man stared at Ambron and continued, “But I will speak on behalf of the God that you served.”

“...”

The words that Ambron wanted to hear so much...

“...I’m sorry.”

Ambron’s eyes grew wide at God’s words. Along with that, God’s divine messages rang in his ears.

[The God that has started at the lowest place.]

[He met the priest that hated the Gods the most.]

[Watch and see. This is the birth of the greatest religion and the beginning of a new legend.]

Chapter 656: The First Priest

Minhyuk, the first player to become a king and a God, heard the notification in his ears.

[Searching for your first temple, the temple that Athenae had bestowed upon you.]

After participating in the Banquet with the Gods and meeting with Athenae, Minhyuk immediately got transported somewhere in a flash of light. However, it was taking quite a long time for the warp to end. During the long wait, these notifications also rang in his ears:

[Your temple has been found!]

[Your first priest has appeared in your temple!]

[If you fail to win the heart of your first priest, you will have to find another priest!]

[A God is a great existence.]

[Please show God's greatness and never let your majesty fall!]

[You can now check your temple!]

The Gods were divine existences, and none of them had ever made an appearance in front of their own believers, those who placed their trust and faith in them.

Minhyuk, who was curious about his temple, decided to check it first. He arrived at an unexpected scene: his supposed first priest was looking at Minhyuk's statue with an angry glare, holding a hammer in hand. Furthermore, the priest kept on swearing as if he wanted to hit the statue with his hammer right away.

'What the hell?! Are all priests as crazy as this?!'

However, even if he thought like that, Minhyuk still patiently listened to the man's story. Minhyuk naturally understood why Priest Ambron was feeling that way. If he had been in the priest's place, he would have also hated the Gods.

Many thoughts flashed in Minhyuk's head at that realization, *'Perhaps this is the difference between the NPC and the player.'*

And as he watched the temple fall apart, another thought flashed in his head, *'What rewards will I get if my temple falls apart?'*

Yes, Minhyuk was not only feeling pity for Ambron. He also calculated the probability of things going in his favor. He knew how to embrace people and their differences, and was aware that a simple word could change one's view of the world.

Because of that, Minhyuk ignored the notifications that suggested for him not to show up. He appeared in front of Ambron, hugging the man and protecting him from the collapsing ceiling.

'Perhaps these words would completely change your life.'

Then, Minhyuk said the words that would never come out of the mouths of the other arrogant Gods.

"...I'm sorry."

Priest Ambron's eyes grew wide at Minhyuk's words. Then, a teardrop fell down from his eye. Ambron slowly stood up, his steps taking him further away from Minhyuk as he shook his head firmly.

"H, how can a God... apologize to a human..."

Ambron knew that the Gods did not show themselves to their believers.

"I hope my words can be some source of comfort and solace for you."

"..."

Minhyuk stood silently in front of Ambron as the priest continued to shed tears.

'Perhaps this God...'

At that moment, Ambron entertained the thought that the God in front of him was different from the other Gods.

"..."

Only after Ambron's tears stopped did he realize that God had hugged him earlier. In fact, it was the figure of God that had greeted him instead of the collapsing ceiling when he had opened his eyes earlier. For some reason, he thought that God's figure was really cool and handsome.

"..."

Perhaps that was the reason why Ambron's cheeks were flushed with a dark shade of red.

'N, no. Why are your cheeks turning red...?!' Minhyuk thought, unable to hide how flustered he was. Then, the notifications rang.

[The God that Likes to Cook is watching the scene with joy and delight.]

[The God that Likes to Cook is rooting for you!]

'What, what are you rooting for?! No, what the hell are you thinking?!'

Arlene had to be rooting for Minhyuk and the priest's future endeavors, that was what Minhyuk desperately wanted to believe.

Only after the situation had calmed down to some extent did Minhyuk have the time to look at the temple's situation. Most of the temple had indeed collapsed.

Ambron was also very much aware of the temple's situation. After all, he was the one who had grabbed a hammer and started demolishing the temple.

"...What are you going to do about my temple?"

"I'm sorry."

The comfort and hugs would end at this point. Minhyuk was not the kind of person who would allow himself to suffer losses. Of course, the temple was already on the verge of a collapse, but even if that was the case, it was still his first temple.

Then, the notifications rang.

[You have changed First Priest Ambron's fate!]

[However, the fate that ties Priest Ambron down is a very strong one!]

[You might be able to defy Priest's Ambron's fate if you gain his complete recognition!]

[Ambron will temporarily act as your first priest.]

Minhyuk rubbed his chin in thought. It seemed like his choice to show recognition toward Priest Ambron and comfort him had been correct. Even though the temple had collapsed, from what it looked like, Ambron himself was a worthy reward. However, since Ambron had destroyed Minhyuk's temple, he thought that it was only natural that he get some compensation from Ambron. The problem was whether Ambron could give him anything. For now, Minhyuk decided to check Ambron's stats first.

?Passive Skill: The One that Serves God

?Passive Skill: The One that Detests God

?Passive Skill: *Priest that Shares Faith*

?Innate Pope's Power

?Innate Death's Priest's Power

?Active Skill: Together with God

?Active Skill: Prayer for God

"...?!"

Minhyuk was shocked to learn that the priest in front of him was not just any ordinary priest. Ambron's passive skills and active skills were both amazing. However, the one that took the cake was the passive skill Priest that Shares Faith. It was a skill that could give Ambron the power to attract other priests that had either been abandoned by their Gods, hated their Gods, or had yet to find their Gods. For Minhyuk, who still did not have a single believer in his temple, this was a necessary and very welcome power.

Aside from that passive, there were two other surprising points in Ambron's stats.

Passive Skill

?Born with the talents to become a pope, once he truly serves and puts his complete trust and faith in his God, he will become a pope that will shock the entire world.

?If he becomes a pope, his God will receive a 5% increase in all stats.

?If he becomes a pope, he will be able to naturally attract believers with his glib tongue.

Ambron was actually a natural born candidate to become a pope. His potential was limitless. However, there was a flip side.

Passive Skill

?If he refuses to serve a God, then he will become a figure that would become a Death's Priest. Once he becomes a Death's Priest, he would target and kill the other Gods' priests and even go so far as killing Gods.

?If he becomes a Death's Priest, all of his skillset and stats will change.

Minhyuk did not know what a Death's Priest was, but he could tell just by the explanation alone that Ambron's future as a Death's Priest could be reversed if he performed well in this quest.

'I admit that this God is different from the other Gods. However, that's not enough reason for me to serve him. Besides, there's a chance that he's not worthy enough to have me.'

Ambron was already aware that he was a pope candidate. Ever since he was young, he knew that the holy power in his body was beyond anyone's imagination. When the God of Mercy showed him an oracle, he realized that there were things that he could do that other ordinary priests could not.

There was practically no reason for Ambron to serve a God that was starting at the lowest point. Just when the thought flashed in his head, however, the God asked him, "Have you eaten yet?"

"..."

The members of the Story Team hurriedly rushed to the Special Players Management Team. This was because they heard that the fate of the Death's Priest, a very special NPC, had been altered.

However, even after hearing the entire story, the Story Team's Team Leader was confident that it was not the case at all.

"No matter what you think, the Food God will never win Ambron's heart. The person that would become the Death's Priest has to believe in the Food God to the point that he could be considered a fanatic. It's nigh impossible to increase favor with him."

He tried to deny it but Team Leader Park and Lee Minhwa just chuckled at him. Then, Park Minggyu said, "I can't tell you that we're going to be alright but..."

Team Leader Park looked at Minhyuk, who was cooking a meal. “Not only is the Food God good at cooking, he also knows what the other person wants. He knows how to use those things well.”

Priest Ambron had prayed incessantly to God since he was a child. Because of his beliefs, he imposed a ban on himself and refrained from eating meat, making sure to maintain a vegetarian diet.

And now, the great God in front of him had just asked him “Have you eaten yet?”

Hearing the question, Ambron unknowingly touched his stomach. He had eaten before coming here. However, his stomach had started to grumble because of his nervousness.

Minhyuk had a soft smile on his face. *‘I must win Ambron’s heart!’*

He had already shown a better image as a God in front of Ambron. Now, all he had to do was increase his favor.

“May I ask why you’re asking me this?”

A God was asking if he was hungry. Ambron could not help but be skeptical.

“Because I’m going to cook you a meal.”

“...?!”

Minhyuk’s words came as a huge shock to Ambron. After all, he had never seen a precedent to something like this. A God that made something for his priest? There were no records of this in history.

‘So, he’s really different from the other Gods...’

Perhaps because he was a Continental God, but the God in front of him was completely different from the Gods that he knew of. On top of that, Ambron was also very curious about what kind of dishes the God that Likes to Eat could make.

So, Ambron said, “Just the fact that you’re willing to cook for me is already something that makes me deeply moved. However, I do not eat meat.”

“You don’t eat meat. Okay. How about vegetables that taste like meat? It’s alright, no?”

“Y-yes.”

Ambron had heard that the high ranking priests of the greatest religion, the Athenae Religion, would come across precious ingredients once in a while, and some of those tasted like meat.

As Minhyuk was close with everyone from the Athenae Religion, he was able to receive plenty of ingredients from them. An example was chicken grass. There were also beef apples that had the same texture and flavor as that of beef sirloin.

“You must be feeling tense, it’s better if I make you some porridge.”

Then, Minhyuk began to cook. The dish that he was making for Ambron was chicken porridge. He chopped the vegetables and boiled the ‘chicken’ to make the broth. Not long after, he added some glutinous rice, as well as various vegetables, to the broth before stirring them evenly.

Minhyuk cooked the porridge for a long time, his sweat dripping down his forehead as he watched the cauldron simmer. It was an unexpected scene, yet his figure looked cool.

Minhyuk was a God, and yet he was cooking for a mere human like Ambron, who was staring unknowingly at his figure. Ambron thought that Minhyuk was truly cool.

The finished porridge was placed in front of Ambron. There was also a plate of ‘kimchi’ placed right next to it. Ambron looked at God and tried to eat the dish in front of him while watching him.

The bowl of chicken porridge in front of him was filled with well-cooked and glistening rice that was in complete harmony with the various colors of the vegetables on top of it. He took a spoonful and blew lightly on it before placing the still-hot porridge in his mouth.

“Hooo~”

Ambron immediately breathed out to soothe the heat in his mouth. As he continued to chew, an amazing flavor spread in his mouth.

‘This, this is the taste of meat...?’

It tasted just like what he heard from the stories. The meaty soup tasted light and savory. Ambron kept eating the chicken porridge in front of him until he came across the chicken grass that was added in the porridge. Even though it was just a little piece, the chicken grass had a tender and soft texture in his mouth, one that Ambron had never felt from other vegetables before.

“...!”

As he swallowed the mouthful, Ambron’s eyes grew wide, and he hurriedly wolfed down the chicken porridge. This time, he tried a mouthful of chicken porridge with the crunchy kimchi that was served beside it. Once he placed it in his mouth, the cold kimchi mellowed down the heat of the chicken porridge. Its spicy and sour flavor also complemented the savory flavor of the chicken porridge.

‘Delicious. Truly delicious! Is this what meat tastes like?! Eureka!’

Ambron came to a realization as he scrambled to finish his bowl. After scraping the bowl clean, Ambron let out a satisfied breath as he patted his full stomach subconsciously. That was when he made eye contact with his new God, who was looking at him after finishing his own food.

God smiled at him and asked, “Was it good?”

“...”

That smile was truly too dazzling.

“It was delicious.”

Then, at that moment...

[Your favor with Ambron has increased!]

[Ambron has fallen for your bright smile!]

[Your favor with Ambron has increased!]

[Ambron has fallen for the dish that you cooked for your first priest!]

[Your favor with Ambron has increased!]

Ambron's cheeks were dusted pink.

"...?"

Minhyuk could not understand his reaction.

'Did he fall for me? He fell for me just after eating one dish?'

Ambron, whose cheeks were stained with a dark shade of red, stared at Minhyuk for a long time. Only when Minhyuk looked back at him did he turn his head to avoid his gaze shyly.

'Why are you avoiding eye contact?!'

Ambron tried to fan the flush on his cheeks away before asking, "All right. For the time being, I will live in your temple. Ah, by the way, have you decided on the name of your religion?"

Minhyuk broke into a smile at Ambron's question. In fact, his 'religion' had existed for a long time already. Finally, the true birth of this great religion had come.

"Minhyuk Religion."

"...?"

Priest Ambron could not help but doubt his hearing at the ridiculous name. However, Minhyuk said with fierce conviction, "The name of my religion is Minhyuk Religion!!!"

This was the true birth of the great religion known as Minhyuk Religion.

Chapter 657: The First Priest

*‘Hmm...’*Minhyuk rubbed his chin in thought.

The most basic thing that a temple needed to operate was not only a priest, but also a congregation of believers. The temple would only be able to run smoothly if there were believers that donated and raised funds for the religion. That would determine whether the temple would be in a deficit or a surplus once it started operating. Believers that were truly faithful to their Gods would willingly open their pockets and donate, while praying for a comfortable and easy life.

According to the quest, Minhyuk had to gather at least thirty priests or believers that had true faith in him. Ambron looked bitterly at Minhyuk. He was fully aware that gathering priests and believers was a very daunting task. New believers would most often choose to believe in Gods that had plenty of believers already. After all, it was very hard to follow a God that had nothing at all.

‘This is going to be very hard.’

Ambron looked very bitter.

“I will also help in gathering new priests and believers.”

Ambron had decided to trust and follow Minhyuk for the time being. Besides, it was him that brought the temple to its collapse.

“...”

Still, he looked miserable as he looked around the temple. Ambron was sure that whichever priest or believer they gathered would immediately run away the moment they saw the temple in such a dilapidated state.

“Right. You’re not going to tell me that you will turn tail after putting the temple in this state, no? Ah. I’m not telling you to follow or listen to me against your will. I suppose only someone without a conscience would do something like that, right?”

“...”

After hearing Minhyuk’s words, Ambron thought that he should do his best while he was here.

“Ah. If you’re going to do that, then I would like you to go around with my friend.”

“A friend?”

“That’s right.”

Ambron looked at Minhyuk with a bit of expectations. What kind of existence was God’s friend like? Then, the space behind Minhyuk cracked open as something walked out. There was a bright light shining out from the space so it looked like there was a halo surrounding the being.

‘It’s so bright...’

What greeted Ambron once the light faded away was a being that was standing proudly, with his arms folded on his chest, and an arrogant smile curling at the corners of his lips.

“Oiiiiiiiiiiiiink!!!”

“...”

Ambron was struck speechless. The baby pig was sporting an arrogant expression on his face, while looking down at Ambron as if he was a God.

“Ah. There’s something that you have to keep in mind when traveling with him. You have to regularly give him something delicious. If you fail to do that, he will get angry.”

“...”

“However, I am super confident...”

“...Yes?”

“...He will definitely be a big help to you.”

Even if Ambron did not understand how the baby piggy in front of him could help gather believers and priests, Minhyuk believed in Beanie. After all, he was fully aware of Beanie’s endless potential.

Minhyuk watched as Beanie haughtily approached Ambron with his outstretched paws.

“Oiiiiiiiiiiiiink!”

“What? Ah, yes?”

“Oink, oink oink! Oiiiiiiiiink! *(If you have something delicious with you, give it to me. Oink!)*”

Minhyuk smiled as he watched Beanie already working Ambron, who was flustered and embarrassed, the moment he appeared.

‘Ah. They’re getting along well.’

Although it was unknown how the two of them would get along, Minhyuk still nodded at the sight.

For now, there was something that Minhyuk had to check. He immediately pulled out the Corrupted God’s Mysterious Bundle. It was an item that would allow the one to gain the object or the map that was leading to the object that they were the most greedy for..

Without any hesitation, Minhyuk placed his hand inside the Corrupted God’s Mysterious Bundle.

[You have placed your hand inside the Corrupted God’s Mysterious Bundle.]

[It will give you the item that you want the most or tell you the place where the item is.]

Something fell in Minhyuk’s hand immediately after. The item that he pulled out was obviously a map.

[You have acquired the map to First Pope Kronad’s Grave.]

“...”

Minhyuk stared at the map in his hand for a moment before taking out the Puzzling Seasoning Jar from his inventory. The Puzzling Seasoning Jar looked no different from usual. However, the most important change here was that the nagging and mischievous guy had been quiet for quite a long

time now. There was a chance that this state would remain forever too. Minhyuk knew that Obren could no longer appear using Kronad's Sealed Necklace.

'I never expected that you would sacrifice yourself for me.'

For Minhyuk's sake, Obren willingly let go of his final chance to awaken in this world once again.

Minhyuk slowly unfolded the map to First Pope Kronad's Grave. Usually, whenever one opened a map in Athenae, a hologram would pop out and show where the player was currently located.

"...?"

To Minhyuk's confusion, his current position was not shown anywhere in the map. He continued to observe the map.

"What the hell? This..."

Only then did he realize that the map that was in his hands was of an area still unopened in Athenae. The continents that he was aware of were nowhere to be seen.

"It's a completely different place?"

Athenae was full of possibilities. President Kang Taehoon even mentioned once that it was impossible to consume and clear all of Athenae's contents. The players then vaguely realized that there was a chance that there was another world that existed beyond the world that they were currently playing at. In fact, there were even reports about some players actually visiting such a place.

"May I take a look at that?" Priest Ambron asked, showing interest in the map.

After some time, Ambron spoke, "So, the stories were true."

Ambron had been studying myths and legends for a very long time. He had been working hard since young, which gave him enough qualifications as a pope.

"You know about this?"

"Yes. This is the Land of the Forgotten Heroes."

"Land of the Forgotten Heroes?"

"That's right. That is what we call that place. For them, the world that they live in is just like the world we live in. Just like us, they also have gods, albeit completely different from ours, in their world."

"And how do I get there...?"

"Popes or Saint-level existence from one of the other religions would probably know about it. There are probably other ways to go there, but I'm not aware of them."

"Is that so?"

“Yes. However, there’s one thing that’s for sure. The people that live in our world seek to explore the Land of the Forgotten Heroes. After all, that place would definitely grant them new power, new artifacts, new food and many more.”

“...New food?”

“That’s right.”

Minhyuk was already drooling at the thought. This was starting to look like a vacation abroad.

At this moment, Minhyuk’s destination was confirmed. He was now set to go to the ‘Land of the Forgotten Heroes’.

After that, Minhyuk hurriedly visited Athenae Religion and asked Loyna about the story of the Land of the Forgotten Heroes. Then, he immediately went to the next destination after that.

The only ones left in the temple were Beanie and Ambron. Ambron watched as Beanie borrowed a lot of things from the Athenae Religion.

“Oink, oink oink oink! Oiiiiiiiink! (Just trust me, oink! I know of a good way to gather believers!)”

“...”

Although Ambron was not convinced, he decided to put his trust on the baby piggy for now.

Just like that, the two of them moved to gather priests and believers.

The Kingdom of Death was ruled and owned by Death. He was its king. Yet droves of priests and paladins would come to this place. In fact, the reason why they flocked there was because there were countless tests that required them to use their holy power against the undead, in order to receive their qualifications and recognition.

Right now, Death was sighing in his kingdom, *‘Beanie, why do you have to ask me to do that... well, there’s nothing I can do since this is for Minhyuk’s sake.’*

Beanie had visited Death and asked for a favor. Death watched the paladin trainees and apprentice priests wading through crowds of undead through the crystal ball in his hands and said, “Zone 3. Summon Lich.”

Just like that, a lich was summoned in the place that was shown in the crystal ball.

There were five paladin trainees and three apprentice priests struggling to fight against skeletons in Zone 3. Among them was Lany, a girl that dreamt of joining the Athenae Religion. Lany was not entirely sure but this might just be the final step for her to achieve her dream of joining the Athenae Religion. After all, she was smart, religious, and had holy power that was a cut beyond the rest.

However, she fell into despair not long after.

“A, a lich?!”

“How, how come a lich suddenly showed up in here?!!”

A lich suddenly showed up in Zone 3 where the trainees and apprentices were taking their tests. This was unprecedented. On top of that, a lich was a very powerful undead that these priests and paladins would not be able to deal with. The people here were not players but NPCs, and their deaths here would mean that they would face eternal rest. Simply put, the lich in front of them was a true object of fear.

Bang, bang, bang, bang, bang, bang, bang!

Magic attacks rained down upon them as the lich waved its hand. However, strangely enough, none of them realized that the attacks never reached their bodies. All they did was scream in fear and terror.

Then, hundreds of undead appeared around the lich. Seeing the additional troops advance, the apprentice priests and paladin trainees cried and shed tears.

“Ah, aaaaaaaah...! G, God... please grant power to our pitiful selves to punish the evil and the wicked!”

“God! Please show us a way to get out of this difficulty!”

All of them cried out and wailed for their Gods to help them. But of course, the Gods did not answer their calls.

The lich looked at them with a cold and vicious glare as it appeared right in front of them. Then, it began to cast magical attacks that continued to rain down upon them.

Lany shut her eyes tightly, tears dripping down her cheeks as she hoped and prayed, ‘G, God... Please... please... us...’

Then, at that moment, a man’s voice rang in their ears, “God has sent his envoys to answer the cries of the poor and the pitiful. The evil and the wicked will retreat in front of our God.”

Claaaaaaaaang—

The sound of a mysterious and unknown bell rang loudly in the area. This caused the undead in the surrounding area to let out agonizing howls.

Then, a white light burst out from behind them as the mysterious voice continued to flow in their ears, “Aaah. His Holiness has sent his envoys, asking them to show up to protect the poor and the pitiful. Praise be upon him, praise be upon him!”

The man that was reciting those phrases was none other than Ambron. Reading the lines that Beanie had written for him, he thought, ‘*Why am I reading something like this?*’

However, he still continued to recite the words written on his cheat sheet, “Be afraid, you wicked ones!”

Death, who was watching everything from a distance, said to the lich, “Hey. Get on your knees and pretend to be afraid.”

“Kiheeeeeeeeeeeck!”

The lich and the rest of the undead fell down on their knees, showing frustration as they shrieked.

Diiiiiiiing—

The bell rang once more, putting the lich and the undead under more suffering.

“Open your eyes and witness the arrival of God’s envoy!!!” Ambron cried out as a being enveloped in a bright and white halo appeared.

Lany placed her palms together and looked at the being in awe. The light that covered the being slowly faded away until it revealed his form. The being was wearing a white priest’s uniform with a bell in one hand and a black kitchen knife on the other. As for his visage, it was none other than the face of a baby piggy.

“Oooooooooink! (*In the name of my God, be gone!?Oink!*)”

Crackleeee—

Along with that snort, the lich and the undead were devoured by flames.

Ambron was rendered speechless at the Go-Stop like scenario that unfolded in front of him. However, although it was a bit embarrassing, everything was done perfectly.

‘Just look at his face. He has the exact expression as that of a kind and gentle mother.’

Beanie’s expression was the epitome of kindness itself, while wearing the white priest uniform. He kept the bell and the knife as he looked upon the apprentice priests and paladin trainees kindly. Then, he flew to them and patted their foreheads.

“Oink, oink oink oink.”

“Child, do not fear. My God has called for me and told me to run here for your sake.”

“Ah, aaaaaaaaaah...!”

“Oink oink, oink, oooooooooink!”

“I will make sure to destroy evil and bestow upon you a new lease in life.”

Beanie smiled gently at them and turned around as if he was closing his act. The moment he turned around, he broke out into a gleeful smile while thinking, *‘A perfect performance, oink!’*

Of course, he also dropped something when he turned around, pretending to be unaware, and disappeared into another burst of light with Ambron.

Once they disappeared, the apprentice priests and paladin trainees continued to stare blankly in awe after witnessing the descent of God’s true envoy and messenger.

At that moment, Lany picked up the thing that God’s envoy had dropped. Then, she looked at the contents.

[Join the Path of Minhyuk Church.]

[Who is the Great God, Food God?]

“...?!”

“...!”

“...!”

“...!”

Lany, who checked the contents, clasped the letter in her chest and said, “This is... definitely God’s divine revelation.”

Lany, who declared that she would join Athenae Religion, had found a new religion to follow. Its name? Minhyuk Church.

Chapter 658: The First Priest

Minhyuk met with Athenae Religion’s Saintess Loyna to ask for information on the path to the Land of the Forgotten Heroes.

The Land of the Forgotten Heroes was a place where one could not come and go so recklessly. Even Saintess Loyna said that she could only get a parchment that could allow one to enter the path to the Land of the Forgotten Heroes once every year. But even if one received this parchment, it would only guide them to that place. According to Loyna, one could only enter that place through their own power alone.

Minhyuk gratefully received the parchment that Saintess Loyna had handed over to him, and ripped the parchment apart.

[You have torn the Parchment that Guides you on the Path to the Land of the Forgotten Heroes.]

[You are being warped.]

When Minhyuk opened his eyes, he was greeted with a long bridge in front of him. The bridge was surrounded by clouds and it would make anyone dizzy just by looking down below.

There, Minhyuk summoned Hanwoo and climbed on its back as they moved towards the other end of the bridge.

“Hanwoo.”

“Moooooooo?”

“Give this hyung some rib-eye.”

Swish, swis~

“Hanwoo.”

“Mooooo?”

“Give this hyung some skirt steak.”

“Moooooooo...”

Minhyuk and the Bull Demon King, Hanwoo, shared a very special relationship where they could exchange morbid jokes like this. As he rode on Hanwoo’s back, he asked, “Why is my dear Hanwoo looking so listless and weak today?”

Minhyuk climbed down and gently placed his hand on Hanwoo's head. He looked at the cow with a curious look on his face. For some reason, he could tell that Hanwoo's eyes looked a bit sad today.

"Moooooooo!!!" Hanwoo moo'ed loudly, scraping the ground with his hind legs. It seemed like he was playing a prank on Minhyuk.

"Did you trick me? Rascal. Hey, I might die if you run into me!"

"Moooooooo!"

Hanwoo grinned, finding what they were doing fun and interesting. Minhyuk then climbed on Hanwoo's back again.

"Hanwoo, I don't know what kind of danger awaits us at the end of this bridge. But you and I, your hyung, we will get through it together, right?"

"Moooooooooooo!"

Minhyuk smiled as he patted Hanwoo's head once again. Then, he looked at the Food God's True Inherent Skill that he had acquired when he received the qualifications of a True God.

Food God's Secret

Mana Required

: 5,000

?Through the skill Inversing Giddiness, you can decrease the stat or skill level increase effect on the person that ate your dishes and received its buff effects. You can decrease it as much as the buff effect they received.

?God's dishes are special. In the event that they have been subjected to the Inversing Giddiness skill, the effects of the buff and the changes you made will not disappear even if they have been forced to log out as long as it is still within the buff duration. The opponent will have to find a special way to resolve the issue.

This was the only debuff skill that Minhyuk had in his arsenal.

'I can most definitely cast a tremendous debuff with this.'

It was also the most overpowered debuff skill that Minhyuk has ever seen in his entire life. For example, Minhyuk's buffed dish could increase all of the stats by 20% as well as all skill levels by +1. With the Inversing Giddiness, he could reverse everything and make it so all of the stats would suffer from a 20% decrease and all skill levels by -1 decrease.

'The most important part here is that there are no restrictions and limitations on the number of dishes.'

He could cook dishes in bulk. If Minhyuk fed hundreds of people with his buffed dishes and used Inversing Giddiness on them, they would become weaker than usual. In that situation, if he and his allies were able to eat buffed dishes successfully?

‘Perhaps there’s a chance that I can win against Great Demon Verus even if it’s a 1:1 fight, no...?’

Of course, that would only be the case if it was the same Verus that Minhyuk had fought in the past. That was also on the assumption that Verus was able to eat the dish that he made and that he was able to eat his own buffed dish safely.

Minhyuk, who was lost in those thoughts, failed to see the sadness in Hanwoo’s eyes. Hanwoo’s intelligence was not that high. However, he knew sadness too. The days that he spent with Minhyuk were very precious to him.

But they were drawing closer to the Land of the Forgotten Heroes. And as they got closer, Hanwoo thought that perhaps he should walk slower and enjoy his time with his master and owner more.

Then, he saw Minhyuk look back at him and said, “Hanwoo! There should be a lot of delicious food there, right?! Maybe there’s also that special hay that you’re very fond of there?!!!”

Hanwoo looked at the bright smile on the face of his owner and just like any other day, he laughed together with him too, “Mooooo!”

God’s Children were a secret organization of God-class players. They were people that even the world’s Summit Five would be reluctant to deal with. In fact, some of the God-class players wanted to join the organization. Alexander had also warned Minhyuk not to clash with God’s Children as much as possible.

Now, on the path heading towards the Land of the Forgotten Heroes stood Henry, the God of Money. He was not yet revealed as a member of the God’s Children. However, there were rumors about him being the richest man in Athenae. In fact, there were even rumors about how his financial and capital power was comparable to that of Callauhel.

Just because one had money did not mean that one could grab everything in Athenae. Even for Callauhel, there were certain artifacts that he could not buy even with his money. However, that was not the case for Henry.

Henry, with his God of Money class, had a special skill called ‘Treasure Hunting’. It was a skill that could guide Henry to a special artifact and the method to obtain it. However, it could only be triggered randomly once a month. At the same time, he was operating and leading a huge merchant group. There were even some that say that the scale of his merchant group had already gone beyond that of an empire.

Currently, Henry was looking at an arrogant monkey in front of him. This monkey was none other than the Fake Sun Wukong.

There was no one in the world that was unaware of the grand story of the Great Sage, Heaven’s Equal. He was the one hailed as the king of the monkeys and was the owner of the Ruyi Jingu Bang that could grow longer or shorter depending on his will, as well as the Flying Nimbus that allowed

him to fly among the clouds. He was also famous for rebelling against the Gods in Heaven and fighting against the Bull Demon King as Sanzang's disciple.

However, the Sun Wukong in front of Henry was the fake one.

"We need more. We need more power, silver and gold, and treasures to pressure and defeat the real Great Sage, Heaven's Equal."

"Please do not worry, Great Sage, Heaven's Equal," Henry said, smiling softly. All the while thinking, *'How dare this fake Sun Wukong...'*

The Fake Sun Wukong was actually a protagonist of the story that has been handed down from ancient times. When the real Great Sage, Heaven's Equal was kicked out by Sanzang, he transformed into Sun Wukong's form and pretended to be him. Using that form, he became the ruler of the monkey-type monsters.

In the Land of Forgotten Heroes, characters that appeared in myths and legends from reality would appear here. This place was bound to be a very interesting and fun place for players. In this place they could meet the curious Zeus or the beautiful Aphrodite. That was how many mysterious things were hidden in this land.

What the Fake Sun Wukong wanted to do was to gather gold, silver and plenty of other treasures to lure out the real Great Sage, Heaven's Equal, who had become a king in the Land of the Forgotten Heroes, and secretly take his position there. Henry was in a partnership with him.

In fact, the number of players that were entering the Land of the Forgotten Heroes were increasing by the day. Even though the place was still hidden by a thin layer of veil, players were coming in streams. However, there was one thing for sure, these players were high-leveled players that were fully prepared to travel to this new land.

Now, it was thanks to their entry that Henry was able to gain gold and silver. And this was what Henry was doing. He was dividing his gold, silver and treasures with the Fake Sun Wukong. Was the amount of gold and treasures small? Not at all.

The Fake Sun Wukong actually had a special passive skill called 'Greedy Monkey'. It was a skill that could triple the artifact and gold drop rate from the ones that he killed.

Henry's rewards would also increase by 1.5x whenever he received someone else's quest rewards. This was the power of 'God of Money' Henry. The truth was a third of the money that he earned with his global merchant group was earned through his partnership with the Fake Sun Wukong. But now, this partnership was no longer necessary.

[Your ability: Treasure Hunting has been triggered!]

[Treasure Hunting is an ability that can search for rare powers, owners of powerful artifacts and methods to obtain them!]

[Your search has been successful!]

[The Fake Sun Wukong has stolen the Jade Emperor's Jade Seal!]

[The Jade Emperor's Jade Seal has the power that could give one the 'Power to Ask the Jade Emperor to Grant You One's Wish' and the 'Chance to Become a King'!]

What Henry found was sufficient enough to bring a deep smile to his face. What if he became a 'king' in this mysterious world that no one knew about? He was already thrilled at the thought of how he could exploit and extort plenty of things from the people from this place. However, there was one problem.

"I have to get going now. We have to search for new prey," Henry said as he left the 'Fake Sun Wukong's cave. The cave where the Fake Sun Wukong was currently residing was connected to the Land of the Forgotten Heroes. Henry was met with his comrades the moment he got out of the cave.

"As expected, our greatest problem is our strength."

"That's right."

"Hmmm..."

Henry's expression, which was full of pretentious smiles at the Fake Sun Wukong earlier, turned grotesque. He was someone that would not care about the means. If he could use money, then he would use it. On top of that, he had strong and powerful comrades and troops.

However, it was still impossible. The Fake Sun Wukong was not as strong as the true Great Sage, Heaven's Equal, but he was still so powerful that they could not deal with him with their power alone.

The ones that came here with Henry were his own people, moving in secret as unofficial rankers. They were also rankers that were at the top of the food chain. However, the Fake Sun Wukong was still too powerful for them.

"We need a buff. A very powerful one and something that all of us can get together."

"...Where should we get such a buff?"

There were only a select few people that could give out such a buff. The God of Parchment, the God of Alchemy and the God of Reinforcements were a few of them. But Henry was not acquainted with them at all.

"Aaaaah, Hanwoo~ Can't you really give some ribeye to your hyung?"

"Mooooooooooooo!"

But then, at that moment, an unidentified voice rang in their ears. It seemed like there was someone that was stepping into the Land of Forgotten Heroes. Henry immediately hid with his comrades.

Amidst the thick fog, they saw the figure of a player riding on top of a cow. The player looked unfamiliar. However, Henry could tell that the 'cow' that the player was riding and talking to was the Food God's Hanwoo.

Henry has already explored this unknown land. He knew that Hanwoo was the Bull Demon King and was very much aware of how much his worth was.

'If we do this well, then...'

A good idea flashed in Henry's head. He thought of a brilliant idea where he could kill the Fake Sun Wukong, get the Jade Emperor's Jade Seal, and even acquire the Bull Demon King.

"Let's eat the buffed dishes that the Food God has made."

Grin—

Henry's hideous smile was so wide that his lips seemed to touch his ears.

The Fake Sun Wukong was sitting on his throne and stroking the Ruyi Jingu Bang on his shoulder. He said, "Human beings are truly stupid."

He was aware of Henry's plans. Henry might not know about it but the Fake Sun Wukong had another special skill called 'Truths and Lies'. After seeing through his plans, the Fake Sun Wukong planned to wipe out Henry and his gang the moment they came back to his cave.

'It seems like they have found a new prey. Very well, I can kill him together with them.'

An hour later.

"...???"

The Fake Sun Wukong could not hide his bewildered expression. It was because Henry, the man he introduced as 'Food God', and even his comrades, all sat together and looked at the prepared meals.

And Minhyuk, who watched everyone like that, hid the deep smile on his face.

Chapter 659: The First Priest

Minhyuk, who was traversing the path to the Land of Forgotten Heroes with Hanwoo, saw a group of people approaching him, causing him to be surprised. He had heard from Saintess Loyna that there were already quite a few people that were going to the Land of Forgotten Heroes. However, he never expected to meet some of them like this.

The man right in front had a very familiar face.

'What was his name again? Was it Henry...?'

Minhyuk knew that he was the one with the God of Money class and was the number one player in the global merchant rankings. There could be said to be no corner in this world, especially after the continents had united, where Henry's merchant group had not taken root. That was how far Henry's reach was.

That very same Henry approached and greeted him politely, "Hello."

Minhyuk looked warily at them, especially since he looked different from his usual self.

Henry said, "Looking at this cow and the sandwich in your hands... You must be the Food God, right?"

It seemed like Henry had a pretty sharp eyesight. In fact, Minhyuk was walking around with Hanwoo because he did not expect to meet someone so easily in this place. In any case, Minhyuk knew that he would not be able to hide his identity here.

“That’s right.”

“Aaaah. As expected, I was right. So, you’re really the Food God!”

“Wow. You’re really the Food God?”

“You were the first to receive the qualifications to become a True God not too long ago!”

“I was very moved and impressed with the Battlefield of the Gods!!!”

They all smiled happily as if they were in awe and delight at meeting Minhyuk here. The same was true for Henry.

Henry bent his upper body, showing a more polite gesture than normal, and said, “It’s an honor to meet Athenae’s best player.”

Then, Henry reached his hand out and grabbed Minhyuk’s hand. At the same time, a set of notifications rang in his ears.

[God of Money’s Flattery]

[The God of Money’s Flattery is special. The other person will develop good feelings towards you and listen more to what you have to say!]

“I’m a huge fan. I’ve been watching you since your ‘Frying Pan Killer’ days. Meeting you here is truly an honor!”

Henry, as the one with the God of Money class, was someone that had plenty of special skills in his arsenal. One of them was God of Money’s Flattery. With this skill, he would be able to quickly increase his favor with both NPCs and players, as long as they did not harbor any hostility against him. It was all thanks to this skill that Henry was able to have a high success rate when dealing with large merchant groups.

However, Minhyuk’s reaction was lukewarm.

‘As expected, he doesn’t trust people that easily huh?’ As the thought flashed in his head, Henry suddenly remembered something, *‘Ah, come to think of it, I...’*

Henry had obtained a special ingredient recently. The ingredient was so valuable that he was already pondering about how much he would sell it for. However...

‘The Jade Emperor’s Jade Seal is far more valuable than this. Besides, I will be able to get enough rewards once we finish hunting the Fake Sun Wukong.’

He would gain bigger profits from giving up something small. Henry did not hesitate at times like this.

“To be honest, since I’m a fan, I have always kept the rare and special ingredients that I got since a long time ago, in hopes of being able to give them to you once we meet.”

“Ingredients?”

The look in Minhyuk's eyes changed the moment he heard the word 'ingredients'. At this moment, Henry realized that the rumors were true. The Food God would always show great favor to those that would give him something special and delicious. Henry was confident that he would succeed with the ingredient in his hands.

Not long after, Henry handed over an ingredient that seemed to resemble the shredded chicken that was in Minhyuk's inventory.

Special Abilities:

?You cannot make a buffed dish with this ingredient.

?All of your stats will increase by 0.5% upon consumption.

?Fire attribute resistance will increase by 5% upon consumption.

?Your EXP Acquisition Rate will double for two weeks upon consumption.

“...?!”

Henry could see how Minhyuk's eyes grew wide and how his palms clenched into a fist, and he broke into a grin despite himself.

“As you can see, it's a very precious ingredient. It might just be a legendary grade ingredient but I think it's as good as any God-grade one, especially with the 0.5% increase in all stats, the 5% increase in fire-attribute resistance, and the doubling of the EXP acquisition rate.”

It was the truth. The Phoenix-like Bird ranked the highest among all of the legendary grade ingredients.

The Food God gulped dryly and asked, “You're going to give this to me, just like that?”

“Yes. I'm simply a huge fan. Take it as receiving my heart and feelings. Haha. You can eat it here.”

Squeeze—

Minhyuk's big and warm hands held Henry's hand tightly. He then looked at Henry deeply while saying, “Thank you. Thank you very much.”

“...”

For some reason, Henry felt like he had just become Minhyuk's benefactor with how he was looking at him.

“In fact, I’m really curious to see how the Food God cooks. I would really like to see you cook and eat here.”

Minhyuk gave a thumbs up at those words.

‘Fufufufu.’

There was no one in this world that did not like bribes. Just like that, Minhyuk began cooking. The dish that he was cooking was none other than spicy braised chicken.

Minhyuk naturally hummed. After all, he was making spicy braised chicken with the Phoenix-like Bird. As he hummed, he looked at Henry and the others.

‘What are you all up to?’

No goodwill came without a price. That was what Minhyuk always believed. As for Henry, he was planning on avoiding conflict with the Food God while finding a way to hunt the Fake Sun Wukong. He intended to guide Minhyuk to the cave where the Fake Sun Wukong was after eating his buffed dishes. But of course, all of that were his thoughts.

The power of the Fake Sun Wukong was beyond anyone’s imagination. It would be very hard to defeat him, even if it was the Food God. They would act as if they did not expect the appearance of the Fake Sun Wukong while leading Minhyuk to him. The Fake Sun Wukong would then focus on attacking the Food God while pretending to attack them.

Then, the Food God would be forced to log out by the Fake Sun Wukong and be subjected to his ‘Greedy Monkey’. Once that happened, the Bull Demon King would come under the possession of the Fake Sun Wukong. After that, Henry and his comrades would move to kill the Fake Sun Wukong.

It was the perfect plan. They could just tell the Food God that they had been forced to log out too if he questioned them too.

“Wow. The way you cook is truly magnificent,” Henry burst out in admiration at the man that did not realize what would happen to him.

Minhyuk just gave him a thumbs up.

The freshly made Phoenix-like Bird’s spicy braised chicken was placed in front of Minhyuk along with some white rice, pickled purple daikon, and kimchi. The spicy braised chicken had a glossy sheen and looked just like those big native chicken legs the size of plates, something that he had eaten before.

“Thank you for the meal.”

Of course, Minhyuk did not forget to say his thanks. Then, he took a big bite of the native chicken-like leg. The heat of the freshly made chicken spread the moment he placed it in his mouth. However, it was immediately followed by the flavor of the spicy seasoning and the chewy texture of the meat.

There was a slight hint of difference in flavor. It tasted more mellow, softer. Even the distinct smell of chicken was nowhere to be found. The more Minhyuk chewed, the more the natural oils of the meat flowed in his mouth.

‘Wow. So this is what an imitation of a phoenix tastes like... then, what would a real phoenix taste like?’

Minhyuk gobbled up the chicken leg, vowing to eat a phoenix someday. Then, he scooped a bowl of rice and mixed it with the spicy braised chicken’s sauce. He also mashed some of the potatoes and mixed them with the sauce, before mixing them with the rice and putting it in his mouth.

‘Aaaaah! This is the best! It’s a flavor that can make you eat three bowls of rice in one go!’

Meanwhile, Henry and his party, who were watching him, gulped dryly.

“...”

They were people that lived in a different country from Minhyuk. But just one look at Minhyuk and his delighted expression as he ate the red and spicy braised chicken made them want to try it too. The spicy scent wafted over and tickled their noses, filling their mouth with saliva.

‘I’m getting hungry.’

‘Hoo... Just one bite, please.’

Minhyuk had already finished his entire plate clean, leaving only the bones, even before they could finish the thought in their heads.

[You have eaten the Phoenix-like Bird.]

[You have gained 0.5% increase on all of your stats.]

[You have gained a 5% increase in your fire attribute resistance.]

[Your EXP Acquisition Rate will double for two weeks.]

Then, Minhyuk thought, *‘They probably gave me this for a buffed dish, no?’*

It was obvious. However, Minhyuk thought that it would not be that bad to cook buffed dishes for them. What could the worst outcome be?

‘They want to eat my buffed dishes then turn around and hit me on the back? Well, even if that happens...’

Even if that happened, Minhyuk still had a way to deal with them.

Then, Henry said, “You’re probably going to the Land of Forgotten Heroes, right? By any chance, would you like to come with us?”

Henry knew that he should not bring the subject up immediately. If he did that, then it would make it look like it was truly a transaction. So, it would be better and would look more natural if he asked for a favor while talking in a friendly manner.

“We’ll make sure to carefully... no... show you around,” Henry said, pointing at the cave connecting to the Land of the Forgotten Heroes.

‘If it’s really just asking for a favor, then it’s not a bad thing.’

Minhyuk did not know much about the Land of the Forgotten Heroes, so he hoped it was not the worst case.

Just like that, they all began to move.

The Fake Sun Wukong wished to kill the real Great Sage, Heaven’s Equal and take his place to become king. However, there was one problem, the Great Sage, Heaven’s Equal was a tad bit stronger than himself. It was mainly because of that reason that the Fake Sun Wukong was feeling restless and uneasy to issue a challenge right then and there.

So, the Fake Sun Wukong decided to work with the human named Henry to gather artifacts, gold, and bizarre items. However, this cooperation was now coming to an end. He had seen through Henry and his group’s plan to turn against him.

Thus, Fake Sun Wukong watched as Henry and his party entered the cave. The group was talking amongst themselves, the core contents of their conversation ringing in the ears of the Fake Sun Wukong.

[Minhyuk’s dishes are truly amazing. To think that it can increase stats by 25% and even increase skill levels. If it’s at that level, then wouldn’t we become 1.5x stronger than before?]

[That’s right. There would be nothing that we would be afraid of if we ate the Food God’s dishes.]

For some reason, Henry and his party were flattering the man named Food God. When the Fake Sun Wukong heard their words, he instantly realized why.

‘Anyone could become 1.5x stronger? If I become 1.5x stronger then I will be able to defeat the real Great Sage, Heaven’s Equal, right?’

The Fake Sun Wukong kept on listening to bits and pieces of their conversation, trying to put everything together. From what he had gathered, that man, the Food God, was someone that could make buffed dishes that could make anyone become stronger.

‘I also need that man’s dishes!’?

Then, the Fake Sun Wukong thought of something, *‘Is Henry going to attack me after eating that guy’s dishes?’*

Shrewd, but the Fake Sun Wukong would not leave things be. After all, he also needed that man’s cooking.

‘I’ll head over there!’? The Fake Sun Wukong thought as he rushed out of his throne.

Henry and his party eventually asked Minhyuk to cook buffed dishes for them with Minhyuk agreeing to their request. However, the Fake Sun Wukong appeared just when Minhyuk had summoned the cooking trailer inside the cave.

[Fake Sun Wukong has appeared!]

[The ones that will hunt the Fake Sun Wukong will receive rewards!]

“...?”

“...?”

“...?”

What was more shocking was the part where the Fake Sun Wukong was looking at Minhyuk with great favor and kindness. Then, he said, “I’m originally supposed to protect this place and kill you, human. However, I want to eat your food. I will give you a generous reward if you cook for me.”

“...?”

“...?”

Henry and his party were all rendered speechless.

‘What the hell is wrong with this bastard? Why is he going off script?!’

However, the Fake Sun Wukong did not mention anything about them at all. The first and main priority was to get the buffed dish. So, the Fake Sun Wukong believed that he should not be caught conspiring with that group.

Henry was also aware that things were going in a very strange direction. However, he hurriedly quipped, “This, this is quite strange. From what I heard, the Fake Sun Wukong is very ferocious. But it seems like that’s not the case at all?”

“Really? I just got a quest. It says that I will be able to get 1,000 platinum if I satisfy the Fake Sun Wukong.”

“...”

Henry was rendered speechless. Considering Minhyuk’s point of view, it was advantageous to also cook for the Fake Sun Wukong. If they suddenly said, ‘Don’t cook for him,’ then the situation would become strange. In the end, all they could do was sit and wait amidst a very awkward silence.

Henry and his party had planned to eat buffed dishes and kill the Fake Sun Wukong. On the other hand, the Fake Sun Wukong wanted to eat the buffed dish to kill the real Great Sage, Heaven’s Equal.

Everyone remained silent as Minhyuk finished cooking another spicy braised chicken. Just like that, Henry, his party, and the Fake Sun Wukong hurriedly gobbled up the dish.

The Fake Sun Wukong was in both awe and admiration when he finally tasted the dish. He had never tasted anything like this in his entire life. He thought, *‘It would be a pity killing that human but...’*

There was nothing he could do. Then, after eating the dish, the notifications rang in Fake Sun Wukong’s ears.

[You have eaten the Spicy Braised Chicken.]

[All of your stats have increased by 24%.]

[Your Ruyi Jingu Bang skill level has increased by +2.]

[Your Flying Nimbus' speed has increased by 40%.]

The Fake Sun Wukong was in shock. The same was true for Henry and his party members.

Amidst this tense and awkward atmosphere, the Fake Sun Wukong slowly stood up and said, "Then, is it time for me to kill everyone?"

"...!"

"...!"

Henry and his party were confused and dumbfounded. They were obviously working in partnership with Fake Sun Wukong, but he suddenly declared that he would kill them.

'He knows?'

'He knows that we're trying to kill him?!'

The situation had become complicated in an instant. It was not just them that grew stronger, even the Fake Sun Wukong grew stronger.

"F, Food God. The bastard was truly up to something! Please join us in hunting the Fake Sun Wukong!" Henry said, judging that the hunt would be possible if Minhyuk was with them.

But then, the Fake Sun Wukong said, "Human that cook well, do you truly believe them? Did you know that they were trying to lure you and bring you to me so that they could kill you?"

"Eeeeeeeek! What nonsense...!"

"This monkey bastard!"

Minhyuk, who heard the words of the Fake Sun Wukong, finally understood the entire situation. It seemed like Henry and his party were cooperating with the Fake Sun Wukong. However, they also wanted something from the fake Monkey King, and sought to kill him by gaining more strength through Minhyuk's buffed dishes. However, the Fake Sun Wukong found out about their plans and also wanted to kill them, all the while coveting Minhyuk's power.

'So, that's what happened.'

They might not know it but Minhyuk was actually in a very good situation. He was in a situation where he had nothing to lose and more to gain.

Grin—

So, Minhyuk looked at Henry and said, "Thank you for the Phoenix-like Bird."

"..."

Then, Minhyuk sighed and continued, "But you m*th**f*ckers that are trying to hit each other in the back must have gone crazy, no?"

"..."

“...”

All of them looked at Minhyuk as he raised his hand above his head and snapped his fingers.

Snap—

[Inversing Giddiness]

[Everyone that has eaten your buffed dish will receive a decrease in their stats and abilities that are equivalent to the buff that they have received!]

Minhyuk, with a cold smile on his face, said, “Then, since you’re all getting along, how about I kill all of you?”

“...”

“...”

“...”

Chapter 660: The First Priest

Fake Sun Wukong was very flustered. In fact, he wanted to fight against the real Great Sage, Heaven’s Equal after eating Minhyuk’s buffed dish. Unfortunately, things had gone out of hand.

[Inversing Giddiness]

[The buff effects that you received after eating the Spicy Braised Chicken have disappeared!]

[Your stats and skills will decrease by the amount equivalent to the buff effects that you have received.]

[All of your stats will decrease by 24%.]

[Your Ruyi Jingu Bang’s skill level will decrease by -2.]

[Your Flying Nimbus’ speed will decrease by 40%.]

The 24% decrease in all stats and the -2 decrease was a very devastating blow. Especially because Fake Sun Wukong intended to fight by depending on the Flying Nimbus. But now, the Flying Nimbus had slowed down drastically with a 40% decrease in speed.

However, it was not just Fake Sun Wukong, who was flustered. Everyone present was dumbfounded and confused. Someone at Level 500 would only have the power at Level 400 if their stats decreased by that much. The higher the level of the player, the greater the effect when a debuff was placed upon them.

In the end, all Henry could do was hurriedly open his guild chat window.

Henry was a very meticulous man, and was always prepared for everything.

He ran a giant merchant group that had taken root in all corners of the world. The number of troops under his command was beyond anyone’s imagination. Even the NPCs serving him were quite strong and powerful. Rumor had it that Henry’s Money Bag Merchant Order’s troops could rival an empire. In fact, that was the truth.

There were a huge number of powerful and strong NPCs all over the world. Where would strong and powerful NPCs that were greedy for money go? An empire? A kingdom? Or perhaps, Nerva Sephiroth's Luvien Empire? The answer was none of the above.

The greedy NPCs would knock on the doors of the place where there was the most money. They would head to the place that could give them plenty of rare and special things. That place was none other than the Money Bag Merchant Group, the place that Henry was operating.

The NPCs were working not as vassals but as mercenaries under Henry. There were rumors that the Named NPCs working for him were comparable to the NPCs under Absolute Monarch Richard. Among those greedy NPCs, there were five that were hailed as the strongest.

Henry and the people at the merchant group refer to them as the 'Five Reapers', a group that was built solely with Supreme NPCs. There was one that was once a king and another that was once the pillar of an empire. There was even someone that was believed to be the humanoid monster seen in legends.

The gears in Henry's head were turning quickly as he rallied his troops, *'It doesn't matter who wins if we fight against the Food God now. There's a chance that it will eventually turn into a battle between forces.'*

Henry's merchant group was a behemoth. However, that did not mean that he was not afraid of fighting against the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom. So, he said, "Food God, you're misunderstanding us! Only a part of Fake Sun Wukong's words were true! We have been cooperating with him, but we intended to hunt him with you after eating your buffed dishes!"

For now, Henry's main goal was to get out of this situation that was quickly turning into a very bad one.

"It's the truth! Please believe me! I'm not a fool. How can I fight against you..."

"F*cking bastard. You're still lying?"

"..."

Unfortunately, Minhyuk was not someone that could be deceived by such nonsense. Henry felt goosebumps rise in his arms as he thought, *'How... How can a person's demeanor change this much in just a moment?'*

Henry believed that he was the representative of two-faced people. After all, he had always been hiding his greedy and ugly face behind his smile. What about the Food God? The Food God from earlier was smiling brightly like a pure and innocent child when they presented the Phoenix-like Bird to him. He even showed infinite trust in them. Now, the expression that he was showing them was cold and ruthless. This was Athenae's king and the man that was the first to receive qualifications to become a True God.

"Then, let's drag this as long as we can," Henry said, taking out a parchment from his inventory.

[The Weak's Parchment.]

[This is a parchment made by God for the weak so they could punish their opponents!]

[You can set a target. Once the target has been set, the target will receive a 50% restriction on their attack power for ten minutes!]

Parchments could be created and purchased. The parchment that Henry used was a God-rank parchment. However, the only disadvantage that it has was the fact that it could only be used on players to limit their attack power.

The Food God must have been aware that plenty of special items like this were in Henry's possession. After all, he was a merchant that dominated the world.

"Sun Wukong. Don't you think it's high time that we kill him?"

"..."

The Fake Sun Wukong was also thinking the same thing. He could punish Henry and his party any time that he wanted. But before he could do that, he had to eliminate the most dangerous person in this area.

In other words, instead of the Food God killing them all, they should cooperate and kill the Food God first.

"Ellie's Swordsmanship."

Vwoooooooooooooong—

A powerful force erupted from Minhyuk's body.

Bang, bang, bang, bang, bang!

Minhyuk, who was preparing to fight, was suddenly bombarded with magical attacks. It was literally a bombardment of 5th tier to 7th tier magical attacks. A thick cloud of dust bloomed inside the cave as the ground shook and trembled from the impact of the attacks.

The man that sent the attack was Louivin. It could be said that he built the Money Bag Merchant Group with Henry. Louivin was ranked tenth in the Athenae's global mage rankings.

However, even if he was ranked tenth, he had a way to deal with Golden Mage Ali. That was his skill 'Mana Extinction'. It was a skill that could double the magic's attack power in exchange for twice the mana consumption. Although he could not fight for a very long time, he would be able to beat any mage in a very short and decisive battle.

Henry winked at Louivin. Even Sun Wukong tried to make a move. But just when Sun Wukong was about to jump on his Flying Nimbus and attack Minhyuk, everybody present received notifications.

[The God that Likes to Eat has grown furious!]

[God will bring judgment upon those that mocked and tricked him!]

[God has opened his lips to judge you!]

Minhyuk was in possession of 'God's Voice', something that he received after receiving his 'Qualification as a God'. For the players, God's Voice was like a notification that rang in their ears.

However, Minhyuk found out that its power was greater than what he thought. Intimidation. This was what the players felt whenever they heard God's Voice.

As the thick cloud of dust settled down, Minhyuk's body appeared with his finger pointing at Louivin's head.

"...?"

Doubt flashed in Louivin's head when he saw the finger pointing at him.

"Bang."

[Boom]

[An explosion with additional 4,500% attack power will erupt in the target's body.]

[There's a chance of triggering three to six consecutive explosions.]

[Because of the effects of the Weak's Parchment, only 50% of the additional damage will be displayed!]

Bang, bang, bang, bang, bang, bang, bang!

Consecutive explosions engulfed Louivin, his body flying back from the impact.

[Your HP has dropped below 20%!]

[You have received a fatal injury in your arm. You won't be able to move the injured arm for a while!]

"Urrrrrgh..."

Louivin and the rest of their party were left dumbfounded after seeing Minhyuk incur only a few minor wounds from the bombardment of magic earlier.

The main reason for this was Minhyuk's Slaughterer's Armor. The Slaughterer's Armor could increase Minhyuk's magical defense by as much as three times. On top of that, the Corrupted Goddess' Ring had given Minhyuk a 1.2x increase in his total HP volume. In fact, the 'Boom' that he used earlier was also a skill attached to the Corrupted Goddess' Ring.

However, the thing that shocked Louivin and the party the most was that Minhyuk's damage, which had been halved, was still this great. If it was at 100%, then Louivin might have already died.

Amidst their shock, Minhyuk quickly jumped up and tried to cut down Louivin.

Swoosh—

Sun Wukong, who was riding on his Flying Nimbus, quickly moved to intercept Minhyuk with his Ruyi Jingu Bang.

Claaaang—

Dozens of Ruyi Jingu Bangs appeared and struck toward Minhyuk.

[Phantom Ruyi]

[Dozens of Ruyi Jingu Bangs will appear and hit the enemy with 4,000% damage!]

Bang, bang, bang, bang, bang, bang!

Henry and his party could not help but groan. Currently, Sun Wukong's Ruyi Jingu Bang's level had decreased by two. He was even weaker considering that all of his stats had also decreased. However, despite the weakened state, he was still able to send dozens of attacks with 4,000% damage on his enemies. However, to everyone's further shock, Minhyuk remained steadfast despite receiving the powerful hits.

For legendary-rank armor, their defense would normally range between 1,200 to 1,400. In the Slaughterer's Armor's case, it had around 2,400 defense, with a 7% chance of triggering the 'Slaughterer's Shield', a passive that could summon a transparent shield that had double the defense of Minhyuk.

Then, the word 'Gather' appeared on the blade of Minhyuk's sword.

[Gather]

[Upon successful attack, you will have a 100% chance of having an additional 4,000% attack.]

[There's a 40% chance of triggering around four to eight times of bloody lightning rain with 2,000% attack that will indiscriminately attack anyone within a 30 meter radius of your target.]

[There's a 10% chance of the bloody lightning rain exploding with an additional 2,000% attack.]

[The skill's duration is four minutes.]

Due to the restriction, the skill became weaker, causing bloody lightning strikes with additional 2,000% attack power to engulf a thirty meter radius. On top of that, there was also a 40% chance of triggering the lightning rain four~eight consecutive times. This was the main point.

Baaaaaaaang—

Minhyuk swiftly slashed Sun Wukong with his blade.

Bang!

Then, a single lightning strike fell down upon Sun Wukong, making his body tremble and shake.

'What...!'

The Fake Sun Wukong's estimated level was at around Level 700. With the 24% stat decrease debuff, his level fell to around Level 600 or so. The level was considerably high that was why the damage that he received came as a shock to everyone. Barely a moment after, a bloody lightning rain fell within a thirty meter radius and struck Henry and his party.

Bang, bang, bang, bang, bang!

"Keuaaaaack!"

"Aaaaaack!"

"Urrrrrk!"

After being swept away by the lightning rain, Louivin was forced to log out while the rest of the party suffered a huge amount of damage.

‘What the hell is this...’

.

That was when Henry realized the overwhelming difference in their powers. The man was obviously subjected to a 50% decrease in attack power. So, how was he able to do something like this?

[Fake Sun Wukong awakens all of his power!]

By then, the Fake Sun Wukong has realized the seriousness of their situation. At the same time, the true value of Fake Sun Wukong, something that even Henry was unaware of, unfolded.

[All of your stats will increase by 45%!]

[All of your attack power will increase by 40%!]

[Your skills’ level will increase by +4!]

In fact, even if the Fake Sun Wukong used this power, he would still be helpless against the true Great Sage, Heaven’s Equal. That was just how powerful the Great Sage, Heaven’s Equal was.

Henry and his party had never seen the true extent of the power of the Fake Sun Wukong, let alone the power of the Great Sage, Heaven’s Equal. For a moment, Henry felt fortunate. He thought, *‘Fake Sun Wukong can kill the Food God. Once he kills the Food God, I will use the mass teleport parchment and escape with the items that the Food God will drop...!’*

Henry believed that this was the best and wisest choice.

Thump, thump, thump, thump—

Then, at that moment, the sound of footsteps echoed in the cave. For the first time, Henry felt relieved. Finally, his reinforcements had arrived.

The ‘Five Reapers’ had arrived together with 2,000 support troops, a force that could rival an empire’s elite forces. This was the elite troops and the Five Reapers that he spent a lot of money to nurture and develop!

Henry was confident that this number was enough to kill Minhyuk. He had judged that Minhyuk would not be able to do anything to the number of his forces no matter how strong he was. He thought, *‘Fortunately, I did not fight with the Fake Sun Wukong using the Five Reapers.’*

He was only able to realize today that they would not be able to win against the Fake Sun Wukong, even if they had received the effects of a buffed dish. The first thing that they would do upon the death of the Food God was to flee.

Finally, the support troops charged inside the cave.

“Support troops?” Minhyuk said, frowning.

Henry’s mouth broke into a wide grin as he said, “That’s right. Hahahahahaha! I wonder what artifacts you will drop? Huh?! I’m really curious!”

But then, God’s sacred voice rang in their ears once again.

[The God that Likes to Eat laughs at you.]

[The ones that block his way...]

[...will miraculously open a path in front of his greatness.]

“Summon Hanwoo.”

“...?”

“...?”

“...?”

“Hanwoo, charge.”

Bang, bang, bang, bang, bang, bang!

The support troops that Henry nurtured and developed with tons of money were literally swept away in one fell swoop. At the same time, plenty of artifacts and spoils of war fell down as they were forced to log out. That was not the end.

Crunch—

The Food God chewed some almonds and said, “Summon. Spear God Ben.”

Shwaaaaaaaaa—

The great Spear God with his flowing black hair descended right beside the player that summoned him. His spear immediately stabbed through the heart of Fake Sun Wukong, who was aiming for Minhyuk’s back with his Ruyi Jingu Bang.

Bang, bang, bang, bang, bang, bang, bang, bang!

After stabbing Fake Sun Wukong, the Spear God pulled his spear out and turned around, ignoring the explosion unfolding behind him to kneel in front of his king.

[The God that Likes to Eat will never be afraid even if tens of thousands of enemies appear in front of him.]

[For he is with him, the one that can light up the world with just a single spear.]

[Lay witness...]

[This is a God accompanying and serving another God.]

Spear God Ben, with his fluttering black hair, knelt in front of Minhyuk.

A God knelt in front of another God. To the God that he served, he said, “Your Majesty! Please give me your orders!”

Spear God Ben’s power was equivalent to the power of a thousand troops.