

Gourmet 831

Chapter 831

Master Xuanzang felt like he was dreaming. After Obren acquired the Absolute God's Necklace, he immediately grabbed Xuanzang and stormed the place where the Jade Emperor was currently located.

The problem was that their timing was bad. The Jade Emperor was almost done with his preparations to descend to Edea and participate in the battlefield. However, Obren had stood toe to toe with the Jade Emperor and was not even being pushed back.

Crackleee—

Obren, whose sealed powers had completely awakened after eating Minhyuk's buffed dishes, cast a huge pillar of blazing flames that devoured the Jade Emperor.

The flames instantly incinerated the cloth that covered the Jade Emperor's upper body, revealing his bare and muscular body. He held a sword in one hand and a chained scythe with the other, resisting desperately against Obren.

The Absolute God's Necklace required the one that wanted to become an Absolute God to equip the necklace. Not only that, they had to drive another Absolute God to death and taking away their *divinity*.

"Urk...!"

The Jade Emperor's mind was not entirely focused on this battle. This was because Viel, who was in Edea, kept asking for his help. He could not turn a blind eye to this envoy of his. If his envoys died, then it would mean that they were gone for good.

Despite being forced into several dangerous situations, the Jade Emperor continued to be distracted. As he did so, he started to show a brief gap in his defenses. Obren wasted no time in taking advantage of this gap.

Clench—

Obren grabbed the Jade Emperor's shoulder tightly. At the same time, the Evil God's Books appeared and floated around them, tearing the Jade Emperor's body apart.

Slash, slash, slash, slash, slash, slash—!

The Jade Emperor was in disbelief.

"How come a mere human..."

He could not believe that someone like this was under his command. This powerhouse could have anything that he ever wanted, anything that others would be greedy over.

'So, how come?'

"I don't understand. Why do you obey that man's orders?!!!"

Obren's grip on the Jade Emperor's shoulders tightened when he heard those words.

[The Jade Emperor is dying!]

[You have started to take away his divinity!]

[The Jade Emperor is resisting! He is making it hard for you!]

“Obey his orders?” Obren laughed. “What a pitiful Sky you are.”

Obren looked into the man’s eyes. He could immediately tell what he thought of the residents of his land.

“You are a God and the residents of your land are weak and pitiful. So, they must be subservient to you. They have to follow and serve you. That’s what you think, no?”

“...”

“Then, let me ask you this,” Obren asked him, a wry smile on his face. “If you are truly delighted with the situation that you are in, have you ever smiled?”

“...”

The Jade Emperor shut his mouth. Yes, he had everything. However, he had taken things for granted because he had everything.

“I got the chance to meet the king of a very small nation called the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom. And through him, I was able to meet the people of his kingdom.”

“...”

“They did not deify us or worship us. They just smile and laugh, often greeting me with a *‘Hello, how are you Mr. Obren?’*”

“...”

“I would smile and laugh, enjoying the small talk and stories that we share, and I would feel warm and sweet whenever they hand me a few apples, even when they do not have much to begin with.”

The Jade Emperor felt his chest throb. Those were things that he had never felt, especially since he had only ever trampled, toppled and killed the people under him. He wanted to deny the man. He wanted to say that he was standing above those mere humans and was satisfied with what he had.

“...”

However, the Jade Emperor felt his heart break when he saw the genuinely happy smile on Obren’s face.

“He is the king of the very small nation, the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom, that stood by his kingdom’s people.”

Obren grinned, his grip on the Jade Emperor’s shoulder tightening even further.

[Your speed of taking away the Jade Emperor’s divinity has increased!]

[You are now ascending the position of the tenth Absolute God!]

[However, you have not completely ascended and become the Absolute God!]

[Choose the path that you want to completely take over the position of the Absolute God!]

Obren had many paths to choose from. He could become the God of Wisdom, the God of Laziness, or continue to be the Evil God. He could be any God that he wanted to be with the ability that he had.

“Me? I am not following his orders.”

“...”

“I just want to protect him, that’s all.”

The Jade Emperor vehemently denied it. How would an Evil God protect a mere human being? Even though he tried so hard to deny it, Obren had continued to prove him wrong.

“I...” Obren looked down at Minhyuk, who was fighting on the ground, and said, “will become the Guardian God.”

[You have successfully taken away most of the Jade Emperor’s divinity!]

[You have chosen to walk the path of the ‘Guardian God’ as the tenth Absolute God!]

[The power of the Greatest God Athenae has bestowed new powers upon the Guardian God.]

[The ‘Evil God’s Books’ in your possession have now changed to the ‘Guardian God’s Books!’]

[Most of the power of the Evil God will be changed to become a power that will protect and guard others.]

[The Evil God’s strong power is slowly disappearing from Guardian God Obren.]

[However, the Guardian God is an outstanding God that has received Athenae’s recognition!]

[Some of the Evil God’s power will not disappear from your arsenal!]

[The rest of the Evil God’s power will slowly start to disappear after 24 hours.]

[As per Athenae’s restrictions, Guardian God Obren can only help his ‘ward’!]

[Guardian God Obren cannot bestow all of the power of the Guardian God to one person alone!]

Crack—

Then, at that moment, the Jade Emperor made one final resistance. He pushed Obren away and cast a barrier around him.

“Haa... haa...”

[The transfer of the Absolute God’s power is temporarily stopped.]

[However, you already have enough qualifications as a ‘Guardian God.’]

Even if the Jade Emperor hid behind his barrier, he would not be able to do much anymore. If anything, the only thing that he could do was help Viel. However, Obren had now become the Guardian God. As the newly appointed Guardian God, he immediately bestowed his power upon Minhyuk.

[The Guardian God has bestowed upon you his blessings!]

When Minhyuk learned that Obren went to the Demon World, he did not ask the reason why. After all, he knew that he did so to protect him.

Now that he knew why, Minhyuk could not help but feel warm all over. Obren had abandoned his name as the Evil God and became the Guardian God, the new Absolute God, just so he could protect him.

[The Guardian God's Blessings.]

[Your physical and magical attack have increased by 40%!]

[All of your attack skills' damage has increased by 30%!]

[Your EXP acquisition rate and item drop rate will double whenever you kill your opponent while the Guardian God's Blessings is in effect!]

[The Guardian God's Endurance Buff Ability cannot be duplicated!]

All of the players turned their attention to Minhyuk after he received the protection of the Guardian God. Meanwhile, Minhyuk turned his head and saw Obren, who seemed to be placing his hand on something.

'My Guardian God Obren.'

Obren nodded as he flashed a small smile toward Minhyuk. Then, his figure disappeared and scattered with the wind.

[You all heard that, right?! Evil God Obren is ascending to become the tenth Absolute God!!!]

[Obren, who's going to be the tenth Absolute God, has chosen to become Minhyuk's 'Guardian God'!]

The fear completely disappeared in Minhyuk's body. Guardian God Obren was with him, there was nothing for him to fear.

"...Wh— what?!"

Viel had also heard the voices that rang from the sky. Right now, the Jade Emperor's position was being threatened. He might still be protected by the Jade Emperor, but that was the same for Minhyuk. Minhyuk was being protected by Guardian God Obren.

Minhyuk clearly remembered how Viel mocked him earlier. Relying on the power of the Jade Emperor, Viel had told him that he would not be able to kill him and that he would not be able to fight against them and the Jade Emperor.

"It seems like your Sky has fallen."

"..."

"While my Sky has risen."

Viel's expression crumpled.

‘My Sky has fallen?’

That was impossible. His Sky’s blessings still remained within him.

Minhyuk’s Dual Sword Technique only had under two minutes left. Viel, who was aware of this fact, charged fiercely. However, he had been pushed back by Minhyuk before. He was only able to stand back up thanks to the support of his Sky.

Claaaaaaaaang—!

Minhyuk gently raised his sword to block his attack while he swung his other sword at him non-stop.

Slash, slash, slash, slash, slash—!

Viel, who once stood above the rest, suffered tremendous damage from the onslaught of attacks that came from Minhyuk, who became stronger with the blessings and protections of his Guardian God.

“Keuaaaaaaaaack!”

Minhyuk’s sword moved fiercely and without any mercy.

‘This is all thanks to you.’

‘Because you are there to protect me. Because you became the new Sky for my sake.’

Booooooooooom—

Minhyuk went after Viel, who was sent flying back from his attack.

Both allies and foes stopped in their tracks as they watched the fight between the two. At this moment, ATV’s Broadcasting Station’s viewership rating had already exceeded 60%, the entire world leaning on their seats as they watched Minhyuk, the ward of the new Absolute God, Guardian God Obren.

Baaaaaaaaang—

While Viel was trying to run away from Minhyuk, Minhyuk knelt Viel in the face and sent him flying.

Crack—

Viel’s face was filled with anger as his face got dragged through the ground, the words *‘My Sky has collapsed?’*

ringing non-stop in his head.

“My Sky? I don’t quite understand,” Viel jeered as he stood up with his palms clenched into fists. He never had a Sky in the first place. “I am the Sky.”

Viel had never regarded the Jade Emperor with respect or admiration. He had always believed that he was just born differently. He had always thought that he would take over the Jade Emperor’s position one day.

‘I am the Sky.’

“The Sky is not something that the likes of a bastard like you can destroy.”

Crack— crack, crack— crack—

Strange sounds appeared from Viel’s body.

[The Envoy’s Wrath.]

[In exchange for your body’s destruction, you will gain a power that will transcend your limits.]

[All of your attack and defense have dramatically increased.]

[During the skill’s duration, your body will continuously be broken and torn apart in exchange for the amplification of your power!]

An unmeasurable force surged in the veins of the lunatic Viel, his eyes turning bloodshot as tears of blood dripped down his face.

[Your Guardian God believes in you!]

[Your Guardian God loves you dearly!]

[Your Guardian God hopes that you will continue to move forward!]

[Your Guardian God...]

[Your Guardian God...]

[Your...]

Obren’s unrelenting love, recognition, praise and support as Minhyuk’s Guardian God rang in Minhyuk’s ears as he cheered him on.

“I am the true Sky!!!”

Edea shook and trembled from the powerful force that burst out of Viel.

Minhyuk looked at the sky that turned red and thought, *‘I also care, love and believe in you.’*

As if to respond to what he was feeling, there was a new notification.

[The Guardian God’s Compliment.]

[The Guardian God’s Compliment has settled in your skill.]

[The first skill that you will trigger upon receiving the compliment will have 50% more power!]

Because of that, Minhyuk was going to show a power that he had never revealed to anyone. A power that would exert greater force with the Dual Sword Technique. This was the power of the Sword of Aeon.

[The Annihilator’s Sword.]

[Your attack with 11,000% additional damage will successfully land and cut down your enemy. It will also trigger an explosion with additional 4,000% damage that will devour an area with a radius of forty meters.]

[You have received the Guardian God’s Compliment!]

[The Annihilator’s Sword will display 50% more power than normal!]

[You are currently using the Dual Sword Technique!]

[You have used the Annihilator's Sword while the Dual Sword Technique is still in effect. Both of your swords will display the skill, the skill's power will be 50% stronger than normal!]

[Double Skill]

[Double Skill has a 1.2% chance of getting triggered. Once triggered, it will double the effects of the skill used.]

[The system cannot measure your power!]

[The system...]

[The system...]

“I AM THE SKY!!!”

Viel, who had gone completely berserk, charged forward. Thick clouds of dust bloomed as his feet left deep imprints on the ground with every step that he took. However, Minhyuk just looked at Viel nonchalantly, as he raised both the swords in his hands.

Viel aimed his sword at Minhyuk's heart. However, Minhyuk was a step faster. He raised both of his swords and swung them down, cutting Viel's body.

Viel's eyes grew wide. His eyes, which were filled with shock, met Minhyuk's indifferent eyes. Then, Minhyuk opened his mouth and said once again, “Your Sky has fallen.”

Baaaaaaaaaaaaaang—

A huge explosion erupted, its aftermath making the entire Edea shake and tremble. The explosion tore Viel's body apart.

Minhyuk turned to look at the sky and said, “Now, my Sky has risen.”

The sky, which had turned red from Viel's power, slowly started to turn blue once again. Then, something fell down from the sky. It was none other than the Jade Emperor. The Sky of Edea had now truly collapsed and fallen.

[The Jade Emperor has died!]

[Guardian God Obren has now completely ascended to the Absolute God's throne!]

[You have killed the Jade Emperor's Envoy, Viel!]

Notifications rang constantly in Minhyuk's ears.

Chapter 832

The Jade Emperor's Coalition Army, the commentators, and the viewers were all left speechless as they watched Minhyuk blow away an area with a radius of hundreds of meters, with Annihilator Sword.

When the explosion cleared out, the aftermath was finally revealed. The area around Minhyuk was completely hollowed out. It was as if a huge nuclear bomb had dropped right where they had been. The strength of the attack could only be seen from high-leveled Named NPCs and Boss Monsters.

[Does this even make sense...?]

[How can a single player use a skill like that?]

[It's so amazing. I'm actually at a loss for words.]

[I'm sure everyone has seen it, no? Envoy Viel has finally been put to eternal rest under the hands of Player Minhyuk.]

[Anyone that gets hit by that skill will surely die. No one could survive that.]

[If Minhyuk has that much power then...]

Everyone already knew what those words meant. So, the commentators did not even opt to finish their words. However, that was not the case for the viewers. They took over the mantle and finished the words themselves.

[I think it's safe to say that Player Minhyuk has protected his place on the Supreme's throne, no?]

[I know, right? Just looking at Minhyuk wielding his swords and using the Dual Sword Technique is enough for us to know that Alexander is still lacking. That's the case even if he had already become the Weapon Master.]

[I think Alexander will go straight to heaven if he gets hit by that skill? Hahahaha.]

[He's really Our Lord, the Food God... How far is he going to go alone? Does it even make sense to have a skill with that much damage and range?]

[All I can say is... All hail the Food God.]

[I've reported it as a bug. That skill definitely does not make sense.]

The viewers' opinions were varied. There were many people that praised Minhyuk as the Lord Food God, but there were also many people that were jealous and envious of his strength that opted to report him.

In their point of view, the power was truly enough to be called a bug or a balance breaker. However, the skill was expressed in a state where Minhyuk had already received the buff effects of his own dish. On top of that, he had received the *Guardian God's Blessings*, a buff that increased all of his attack skills' damage by 30%.

Although Guardian God Obren's endurance buff ability could not be duplicated, Obren still had plenty of other powers that he could use. That included the Guardian God's Compliment, a skill that was not an endurance buff. With the Guardian God's Compliment, once a skill was triggered, the power that the opponent had would disappear, while their own skill would improve by 50%.

But that was not all. By a stroke of luck, Double Skill had also activated. Although there was a very slim chance of getting triggered with a 1.2% probability, it was a skill that practically gave the Dual Sword Technique wings and allowed it to fly. After all, Double Skill could double one's own power upon use. Of course, there were also the effects of the Dual Sword Technique.

Minhyuk's Annihilator Sword reached maximum effect with the application of a variety of things. To put it simply, balance was not broken.

Meanwhile, notifications following the death and fall of the Jade Emperor from the sky rang in the ears of everyone present.

[With the Jade Emperor's death, all quests related to him have disappeared!]

The Jade Emperor's Coalition Army still had more than five million troops in their ranks. The problem was that the target that they were pursuing had already disappeared. With the quests gone, the benefits that they would get from attacking Edea had been significantly reduced.

"Damn it."

"We no longer have a reason to fight."

"No. We can still force Edea to its downfall..."

"F*cking idiot. Who is Edea's God now?"

"..."

"It's Obren. Who also happens to be Minhyuk's Guardian God. Force it to its downfall? Bullshit."

If they continued to force Edea to its downfall right here and now, then Obren, who had now become the *Guardian God*, would begin to launch overwhelming attacks upon them. Finally, many members of the Jade Emperor's Coalition Army were not confident that they would be able to handle *that*.

'How can we even beat Minhyuk if he has a skill like that in his possession...?'

'It wouldn't matter how many we have on our side.'

'There is no longer a Jade Emperor that will give us rewards. We cannot take this risk.'

Basically, the entire Jade Emperor's Coalition Army was in a disadvantageous position. However, they also found this to be very surprising.

"In the end, Minhyuk did it."

Kentaro looked quite bitter. Minhyuk did not force everyone here to log out. Even so, the Jade Emperor's Coalition Army had already lost all of its will to fight. In the end, the Jade Emperor's Coalition Army had to retreat.

At that moment, another set of notifications rang in Athenae.

[Evil God Obren has completely taken over the throne of an Absolute God and has established himself as the Guardian God.]

[Guardian God Obren will protect and guard the lives of many. He will personally choose who he will protect.]

[The Absolute God, Guardian God Obren, cannot bestow all of his powers upon one player.]

[The Absolute God, Guardian God Obren, has become someone that cannot form a lord-vassal relationship with any players.]

[Guardian God Obren will lose the lord-vassal relationship that he previously had with a player before.]

[Anyone that sincerely hopes for something, works hard for something, and lives desperately for something might hear the voice of Guardian God Obren in their ears.]

[Even though the Absolute God, Guardian God Obren, cannot bestow all of his powers upon a single person...omitted...]

Everyone was shocked and terrified when they heard the last of the notifications. Minhyuk, who had just killed Viel, had also heard the same notifications as above. That was why, the bitter expression on his face brightened when the last notification rang. He looked up at the sky and smiled brightly.

Then, the notifications for killing and hunting Viel rang in his ears.

[You have killed the Jade Emperor's Envoy Viel.]

[With the Guardian God's Blessings in effect, your EXP Acquisition and Item Drop rate has doubled.]

[You have acquired 29,965 platinum.]

[You have gained 13,145,000,000 EXP.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

[...leveled up.]

[You have acquired the Skill Book: Viel's Lion Roar.]

[You have acquired Hermian's Swordsmanship Book.]

[You have acquired the Millenium Lion's Sword.]

[You have acquired Viel's Puppet Doll.]

[You have acquired Viel's Mysterious Elixir.]

[You have acquired the Sky's Golden Pig.]

[...Sky River's Twinkling Spring Water.]

[...Roltoe's Chains.]

[...Thousand Sword's Skill Proficiency has reached MAX...]

The notifications constantly rang in his ears. All in all, Minhyuk had leveled up by at least three times. He had also acquired almost thirty thousand platinum, along with a skill book that Viel personally wrote himself. He also acquired Viel's Puppet Doll, a mysterious elixir, and the Sky's Golden Pig.

Unfortunately, even though he had obtained so many treasures and rewards, he did not have the time to check all of the details of the items that were given to him. While the war seemed to have died down and things had already calmed down to some extent, there was still plenty of unfinished work left for him to take care of. One of them was Alexander, who was now on the verge of being forced to log out after being pushed to the limits by Ferro.

'Alexander must not be forced to log out here.'

Alexander had declared himself to be a Supreme. That declaration was made at a time when he still did not know that Minhyuk was the owner of the Sword of Aeon. However, now that he knew that, he must have started to realize that he still had to chase after Minhyuk's back, especially since all of his Weapon Master's skills were only at Level 1.

However, Minhyuk had not only obtained Alexander's help for Edea.

—Alexander, stand by my side in Edea. And...

At that time, Alexander had sat and listened silently to Minhyuk's proposal.

—Once we obtain victory, come to the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom with me and help me protect my kingdom from the Luvien Empire.

Alexander could not die in this place. So, Minhyuk quickly sent Alexander a whisper.

The war in Edea had basically ended.

Daoist Heron, who was fighting against Sun Wukong, Aaron, Hanwoo, and Zhu Bajie all by himself, had given up on fighting and stabbed all of his acupoints. He killed himself, blood dripping down all of his orifices upon learning of the Jade Emperor's death.

However, Ferro was different. Although he knew that the battle had already ended, he wanted to see the battle with Alexander to the end. This was Ferro's pride and his final courtesy toward the man that he was fighting.

Alexander, on the other hand, was being completely crushed by Ferro.

[Your HP has dropped below 15%!]

"Ugh!" Alexander exhaled roughly, his body flying back as Ferro's woldo clashed with his sword. The impact of the blow was so heavy that it felt like he had been hit by a heavy hammer.

However, Ferro did not stop there. He flew up and chased after Alexander with his woldo raised in the air.

Baaaaaaaang—

A weak groan escaped from Alexander's lips as he struggled to lift his sword and block the attack.

Shwaaaaaaa—

Ferro turned his woldo, slashing his opponent's chest just when Alexander was just about to swing his sword down. With this attack, Alexander's blood spurted out like a fountain. His HP almost hit rock bottom.

"You aren't weak. You have the will to grow stronger and an amazing potential that will allow you to spread your wings and fly even further. I dare to gander that your potential is even higher than that god named the Food God."

These words were Ferro's honest appreciation and acknowledgement. It might feel like he was showing mercy to his opponent, but for Alexander, it was nothing but a show of huge disgrace.

Alexander had not lost yet. He was just preparing the special power of the Weapon Master, the Weapon Cloning. In fact, Alexander was looking for an opportunity to use it.

Weapon Cloning had a lot of advantages and merit. However, there was one glaring drawback. It required him to either have touched the weapon or got injured by the weapon that he wanted to replicate.

So, the question came. Whose weapon should he clone? Of course, he wanted to clone the Food God's Greatest Sword. However, would Minhyuk allow it?

Swoooooooooosh—

Alexander quickly snatched the sword that flew toward him. At the same time, the Weapon Master's passive skill *Weapon Search* was activated and all of the information of the Sword of Aeon appeared in front of him.

*'This is f*cking crazy...!!!'*

Alexander was left in shock. However, he had no time to dwell on it.

The Weapon Master actually had another passive skill that allowed him to *ignore the artifact's equipment requirements*.

[You have successfully equipped the Sword of Aeon using the passive skill: 'Equipment Restriction.']

[However, you can only use it for three minutes.]

[Once you have applied the passive skill: Equipment Restriction on a weapon, you will no longer be able to use it again on the same weapon.]

Alexander held the Sword of Aeon that he caught in one hand.

[Weapon Cloning.]

[You can replicate any weapon and use it for five minutes.]

[Once replicated, you will no longer be able to replicate the same weapon again!]

In his other hand, the *replicated* Sword of Aeon appeared. The *Dual Sword Technique* that Minhyuk used earlier appeared in Alexander's hands once again.

Alexander gripped the hilt of the swords tightly as he squeezed the last of his strength and took a step back. He stared at the charging Ferro and waited for the perfect time to use the secret skill that he hid and held on to. Now, with the Sword of Aeon's Dual Sword Technique's effect, Alexander triggered this skill.

[Transcending Weapon.]

[Your equipped weapon's attack power has transcended the limits!]

[Your attack power has doubled!]

[Your attack power has tripled!]

[Your attack power has quadrupled!]

[Your attack power...]

[Your attack power...]

[Your attack power...]

[Your attack power...]

A black stream of energy flew out of the two Sword of Aeon's in Alexander's hands.

[Your attack power has increased by eleven times!]

Then, he used another skill.

“Splitting the Castle.”

It was a skill that originally had 6,000% additional power and allowed Alexander to split anything huge blocking his path in half with a single strike.

Swoooooosh—

Alexander, who shot forward using the Dual Sword Technique, swung his swords at Ferro.

“You will become the Supreme...”

Not long after, Ferro, who had spoken while staring at Alexander with a bitter look on his face, was split in half.

“Haa... Haa...” Alexander breathed roughly. After struggling fiercely, he finally killed Ferro. With these two swords in his hands, he was able to show the world that he could still stand side by side with the Supreme.

Both the commentators and the viewers went wild after seeing this. However, the commotion quickly died down after they heard the following notifications.

[The new Sky of Edea, the tenth Absolute God, is descending!]

With the war finally ending, everyone turned to look at the sky that was now covered with a bright light. They watched as the man, who Minhyuk knew all too well, descended.

He looked quite different from his usual appearance. He had always donned black clothes that complimented his dark hair. Now, his hair had turned white and even the clothes that he was wearing had also become white. Obren, who had completely shifted his colors, was still as handsome as ever. The difference now was that he was exuding a gentle and warm aura.

Obren landed on the ground and approached Minhyuk slowly. He said, “I promise you.”

[The Tenth Absolute God, Guardian God Obren, speaks to a player!]

“I will always protect you.”

Obren would no longer be able to always stay by Minhyuk's side. Minhyuk knew this well. That was why tears had already started to well up in his eyes. However, he also knew that Obren had chosen to become an Absolute God for his sake.

"I will always be by your side on a good day, on a windy day, whenever you laugh, whenever you cry. I will always be there."

One would even wonder if Obren was truly once hailed as the Evil God, with how bright and warm he was as he approached Minhyuk one step at a time.

When he finally stood in front of Minhyuk, he gently raised his hand to cup the boy's cheek and said, "I am Guardian God Obren."

Minhyuk recalled the notifications that made him feel delighted and relieved.

[Even though the Absolute God, Guardian God Obren, cannot bestow all of his powers to a single person...]

[He will be able to live as the Guardian God of a nation or an empire.]

Obren could no longer live just for Minhyuk's sake. However, he could become the *Guardian God* of a nation or an empire. Every single nation or empire served, worshiped and received the protection of different Guardian Gods.

"I will become the Guardian God of the Beyond the Heavens Empire that you are going to establish."

[Guardian God Obren has made a vow!]

[Guardian God Obren has vowed to protect and guard the Beyond the Heavens Empire that you build!!!]

Minhyuk flashed a bright smile after seeing the happy and delighted smile on Obren's face.

Chapter 833

The war in Edea had finally come to an end. The Jade Emperor and his envoys had all died and the Coalition Army had lost their will to fight. After the war ended, these notifications rang all over Edea.

[Edea's Allied Forces have succeeded in protecting Edea from the Jade Emperor's Coalition Army!]

[Special rewards will be given to all of the players that sided with Edea's Allied Forces!]

The residents of Edea were delighted. They cheered loudly and there was a widespread happiness and joy from obtaining this hard-fought victory. In the center of it all was Obren, who declared that he would become the Beyond the Heavens Empire's Guardian God, and Minhyuk, who was silently looking at him.

Meanwhile, the viewership ratings of the Korean broadcasting station, ATV Broadcasting Station, remained fixed at 60% and had not yet dropped. In fact, it was not only ATV Broadcasting Station that recorded such high ratings, all of the broadcasting stations all over the world had enjoyed some success at over 40%.

With the war already over, the question remained. Why were people still tuned in? The answer to this question was explained by the commentators.

[Edea's residents might have won but they are still left in a devastated state. Only 1.3 million of their troops had survived this war.]

[A lot of things had been destroyed during the war between Edea and the Jade Emperor.]

[The residents of Edea are in a situation where they desperately need a spiritual pillar to lean on.]

[The people of Edea had witnessed everything with their own eyes. Obren, the man who had personally killed the Jade Emperor in Heaven, had promised to become the Guardian God of the Beyond the Heavens Empire that Minhyuk establishes. He's the Edea's Commander that led them to victory after all.]

[But that's not all. Minhyuk has definitely built up a high level of favor with the people of Edea. And the people of Edea need another Absolute Being that they could trust.]

After that, the commentators promptly shut their mouths and focused their attention on Minhyuk. They had already given the viewers a good indication of what was to come. As long as one was not a fool, they would definitely not leave. Why would they miss the incredible sight that would happen for the first time in Athenae?

Guardian God Obren, a handsome man with white hair reaching his shoulders, took a step back from Minhyuk.

"Uwaaaaaaaaaaaaah!"

"Food God! We're forever grateful!"

"Food Goooooooood!"

"With your help, we were able to protect Edea!"

They had thought that they would not be able to protect their lands, especially with all of the foreigners abandoning them. However, Minhyuk stood alone by their side and fought with them. The more surprising fact was the fact that Minhyuk's own kingdom was at war. The Luvien Empire had already marched in front of the walls of the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom and were currently pressuring them. But he had still come to their aid.

Then, Minhyuk looked at Edea's kings—Sun Wukong, Master Xuanzang, Zhu Bajie and Aaron. All four were outstanding and great kings. These kings were also looking at Minhyuk.

Minhyuk did not say anything and only asked them with his gaze. The one that stepped forward first to answer the unasked question was the Great Sage, Heaven's Equal, Sun Wukong.

"Beyond the Heavens' King, the people of our dearly beloved Edea are left with devastation and are now impoverished. We have long been tired of the Jade Emperor's tyrannical rule and the constant pressure of war. The people of Edea and even us, the kings, need a place to lean on. A safe haven." Sun Wukong knelt on one knee. "There's no one else but you. Please allow us the honor to take the first steps

with your Beyond the Heavens Empire. I, the Great Sage, Heaven's Equal Sun Wukong, pledge my eternal allegiance and loyalty to you."

This was different from before. Minhyuk might have accepted quite a lot of vassals and subordinates before. But this time, the kings represented their *kingdoms*.

[The Great Sage, Heaven's Equal Sun Wukong has pledged his eternal allegiance and loyalty to you.]

[Sun Wukong is the king of the Kingdom of Rama!]

[The Kingdom of Rama was left devastated by the war. But with their brilliant and outstanding ruler, Sun Wukong, they will be able to rise quickly once again.]

[There are 935,311 residents of the Kingdom of Rama that are eligible to move to Beyond the Heavens Kingdom!]

[There are 434,689 soldiers of the Kingdom of Rama that are eligible to move to Beyond the Heavens Kingdom!]

[You have acquired the 194,131 platinum owned by the Kingdom of Rama.]

[Everything that is owned by the Kingdom of Rama will now be transferred to the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom!]

[The Great Sage, Heaven's Equal, Sun Wukong, is a Named NPC beyond Level 650. You have met some of the requirements for establishing an empire.]

The three kings, who were standing right behind Sun Wukong, immediately knelt down. As he looked at them, Minhyuk recalled the requirements needed for *establishing an empire* that had been released to him before.

[To build an empire, you must secure at least thrice your current territory size, population and military forces.]

[To build an empire, you must secure at least 15 players beyond Level 580.]

[To build an empire, you must secure at least 20 NPCs beyond Level 650. Even if the NPC does not go over Level 650, as long as the system recognizes them as NPCs with special power, then they will meet the conditions.]

Prior, whether it was the number of people, the military force or the size of the territory, the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom had fallen short of meeting all of the requirements mentioned above.

Since then, Minhyuk had made continuous efforts to expand his territory to accommodate more people and soldiers that would come to their side. Because of that, he was able to have enough territory to fulfill the requirements.

Over the course of time, the number of players by their side that have exceeded Level 580 had also grown to more than fifteen. As for the twenty NPC beyond Level 650, it was indeed a tricky requirement to deal with. Of course, the NPCs that they were looking for also included the *NPCs recognized by the system as NPCs with special power even though they were not over Level 650*.

Then, Buddhist Monk Xuanzang turned the beads in his hands and said, "Namo Amitabha Buddha... I believe this is the will of the Great Buddha."

The truth was, the one that Master Xuanzang believed in was Obren. He clearly recalled how Obren ran around the Demon World and went to Heaven to kill the Jade Emperor. He also could not forget the mysterious fate between the cool yet eccentric Obren and Minhyuk. He could also tell that the place, the Beyond the Heavens Empire, that the new Guardian God and the emperor that cared for each other lived in would be a place where the people would live happily in.

[The Buddhist Monk, Master Xuanzang has pledged his eternal allegiance and loyalty to you.]

[Xuanzang is the king of the Kingdom of Abeldo!]

[The Kingdom of Abeldo was left devastated by the war...]

[There are 630,411 residents of the Kingdom of Abeldo...]

[There are 350, 309 soldiers of the Kingdom of Abeldo...]

[You have acquired the 143,100 platinum owned by the Kingdom of Abeldo...]

[Everything that is owned by the Kingdom of Abeldo...]

[The Buddhist Monk, Master Xuanzang, is a Named NPC beyond Level 650. You have met some of the requirements for establishing an empire.]

“Of course, I am willing to serve you, the Beyond the Heavens’ King.”

“As do I.”

Just like the rest of them, King Aaron of the Kingdom of Eden also pledged his allegiance to Minhyuk. As for Zhu Bajie, the king of the Runt Kingdom, he had already pledged his allegiance to Minhyuk before. However, he had yet to hand over the right to rule over his kingdom to him.

[Zhu Bajie is the king of the Runt Kingdom!]

[The Runt Kingdom was left devastated by the war...]

[There are 560,145 residents of the Runt Kingdom...]

[There are 310, 509 soldiers of the Runt Kingdom...]

[You have acquired the 120,100 platinum owned by the Runt Kingdom...]

[Everything that is owned by the Runt Kingdom...]

[Zhu Bajie, is a Named NPC beyond Level 650. You have met some of the requirements for establishing an empire.]

[Aaron has pledged his eternal allegiance and loyalty to you...]

[Aaron is the king of the Kingdom of Eden!]

[The Kingdom of Eden was left devastated by the war...]

[There are 660,145 residents of the Kingdom of Eden...]

[There are 350,509 soldiers of the Kingdom of Eden...]

[You have acquired the 130,500 platinum owned by the Kingdom of Eden...]

[Everything that is owned by the Kingdom of Eden...]

[Aaron, is a Named NPC beyond Level 650. You have met some of the requirements for establishing an empire.]

The scene where the four kings of Edea knelt on one knee and pledged their allegiance to Minhyuk was enough to make the hearts of everyone watching thump wildly. Even Minhyuk could feel his heart thumping wildly in his chest. He had never felt this nervous since he started playing Athenae.

Then, another set of notifications rang.

[You have met the Empire Establishment requirement of having twenty NPCs beyond Level 650!]

[You have met the Empire Establishment requirement for the number of people, the size of your territories and your military force!]

The millions of people in Edea all held their breath as the notifications paused for a brief moment.

]

[You are the first player to have met the requirements for establishing an empire!]

[You can now establish your own empire! For the name of your empire, you can either choose to have a new empire name or keep your kingdom's current name, Beyond the Heavens Kingdom, and name it as 'Beyond the Heavens Empire'.]

[You can now appoint a Guardian or a Guardian God for the empire that you will establish!]

[You have acquired the rewards for being the first player to establish an empire.]

ATV Broadcasting Station's PD Kim Daeguk stared at Minhyuk with a small smile on his face.

"Finally..."

The birth of the very first empire established by a player in Athenae was a historic event.

"P— PD... the ratings..."

"What's the matter with the ratings?"

A viewership rating of 60% meant that more than half of the TVs that were currently switched on in Korea, were tuned in on their station watching Minhyuk. This meant that Minhyuk's face was also flashing in countless electronic billboards all over the country. Perhaps there were also countless office workers, students, and even those that dreamt of becoming dark gamers watching this scene.

However, it seemed like PD Kim Daeguk still underestimated the influence and hold that Athenae had over South Korea.

"We have reached a new record! Our viewership ratings have exceeded 63%!"

"..."

PD Kim's breath hitched. In fact, the ratings continued to climb after reaching 63%, a rating record that Food God Minhyuk had set himself before.

"It's at 64%, 65%, 66%... It— It climbed to 68%!"

This meant that two out of three people in Korea were watching Minhyuk.

At that moment, all of the cameras in the surrounding area zoomed in on Minhyuk's face. Everyone was curious about the rewards that the first player that established an empire would receive as well as what their newly established empire would obtain. After all, none of these had been revealed to the world yet.

Then, Minhyuk declared, "I will establish my empire here and now. My empire will be hailed as the Beyond the Heavens Empire."

Along with Minhyuk's declarations, another set of notifications rang.

[You are the first player to have successfully founded and established an empire!]

[You have acquired 1,000,000 platinum as a reward for being the first player to establish an empire.]

[You have gained 20,000 REP.]

[You have gained 10,000 CHA.]

[You have obtained the Emperor's Authority!]

[All of the abilities of all of the Named NPCs, knights and soldiers of your empire will increase by 15%!]

[A video for the first emperor has been made! If you say, 'Play Video' all of the NPCs and players will be able to watch the first emperor's great steps.]

[The video is a reward prepared by Joy. Co. Ltd. You can showcase the majesty and dignity of the first emperor through this video!]

[The video will disappear if you do not play it within three days!]

[With the birth of the Beyond the Heavens Empire in Athenae, many will tell the tales, sing praises and recite poems about you, the emperor, and the empire that you have established.]

[The First Emperor's Effect has been activated.]

The notifications constantly rang. However, most of these notifications rang only in Minhyuk's ears.

At that moment, a golden crown slowly fell down from the sky and landed gently on Minhyuk's head. The moment the crown was secured on his head, all of the unpleasantness left on the battlefield disappeared. Then, the bloody-red Slaughterer's Armor slowly transformed and turned into a golden armor as a golden throne appeared behind Minhyuk.

Thud, thud—

Minhyuk slowly walked toward the throne. At the same time, the image of Minhyuk sitting on his throne appeared in the form of an illusion all over the skies of Athenae.

[The new emperor of the new era has been born!]

‘How many days had passed since His Majesty left?’

Beyond the Heavens’ Commander Brod could not remember. That was how long and taxing the war against the Luvien Empire was.

The Luvien Empire had arrived at the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom with 2.5 million troops in tow. Of course, there were also a considerable number of Sword of the Gods among them. However, what was more surprising was that it was not the dukes, which were called as the Empire’s Stars, that held the baton and commanded the army, but Nerva Sephiroth himself.

Sitting on his throne a bit further away from the battlefield, Nerva Sephiroth looked at the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom with pity.

“Heok... heok...”

“Aaaaaaaack!”

Brod looked around him. He saw one of the Beyond the Heavens’ soldiers dying as a spear struck his heart.

“Ugh.”

In another area, he saw Spear God Ben, who had lost one eye and was wearing an eye patch to cover it up, squeeze the last of his strength to swing his spear.

“Uwaaaaaaaaah!”

‘How many days has it been?’

All of them were struggling and breathing roughly. Even Locke, who had been forced to log out three times, was still swinging his axe and cutting down several knights that surrounded him. The Fist and Feet of Beyond the Heavens, Ares and Khan, had also died several times but they still continued to fight against the soldiers of the Luvien Empire each time they revived.

“Kghhhhhk!”

Ali, who had been preventing the magic and arrows of the Luvien Empire from pouring down on them, slowly fell down from the sky with an arrow stuck deeply in his chest.

“Urk!”

His Majesty’s Shadow, one-armed Luo, charged fiercely with a devilish look on his face, despite the blood that almost dyed his entire body red.

They were currently in a very bad situation. Almost 40% of the Beyond the Heavens’ troops had died, while another 30% of the surviving troops were sporting serious and grave injuries. All of this made it difficult for them to hold out. On the other hand, the troops of the Luvien Empire continued to appear.

Even Brod had started to grow exhausted. He could no longer remember how many enemies he had cut down. With the Swords of the Gods’ systematic way of attacking, all he could do was fall back

whenever there was danger and recover with the help of the priests, before charging forward and attacking once again.

‘Your Majesty...’ Brod looked up at the blue sky high above them.

To be honest, the Named NPCs of the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom were already at their limits. The players were not doing any better. Each of the players of the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom, those that were hailed as high rankers, had been forced to log out at least 2~4 times during the course of the battle. Most of them had lost their rankings in the top 100 too.

Slash—

Brod’s breath came out in rough gasps as he supported himself with his sword after he took the head of the enemy soldier that was aiming for his neck.

“Kghhk...!”

Even the great veteran Spear God Ben seemed to have no more strength to lift his spear. They were constantly being pushed back by their enemies, until the fight reached their gates.

At this point, Brod decided that the soldiers' participation in this war no longer held any meaning. They opened their gates and sent all the wounded and exhausted soldiers inside. It was a sad and painful choice.

‘It’s better for them to live longer, no?’

Brod, who was pushed back to the gates, continued to look around as he struggled to defend against his enemies. He could see that even the skilled and powerful Spear God Ben was shaking and struggling to remain standing up. Great Demon Elpis had also lost his left arm while Sword of the Gods Luo leaned weakly on the walls, blood dripping all over his body.

“Sir— Sir Luo’s condition is unusual!”

“Hurry and fetch some potions!”

“We don’t have any more potions left...”

Sword of the Gods Luo looked like he was on the verge of death. The word *hopeless* barely described their situation.

Brod was certainly a powerhouse that could take down hundreds of thousands of soldiers on his own. However, the problem was that Nerva had joined the war, and he was a figure that was on equal footing as Brod.

With him at the helm, the Named NPCs, who were already struggling from the pressure brought about by the Swords of the Gods, were tormented even further. In fact, it was probably apt to say that the wounds and injuries that the Named NPCs suffered were mostly caused by Nerva. They had no choice but to employ a hit and run strategy, while suffering tremendously.

“Haa... Haa...” Brod was breathing roughly but he continued to stare ahead and did not give up.

At that moment, the Luvien Imperial Army split and opened a path, as Nerva walked forward. Complex emotions were swirling in Nerva's gaze. Brod just glared at Nerva. If looks could kill, Nerva would have been dead many times over.

Nerva had used a dirty trick by poisoning Brod's knight order, in order to be chosen by the Battle God. Brod hated him for what he did. However, he no longer had the strength to even lift his finger.

"..."

Nerva stared at Brod for a very long time. Then, he spoke bitterly, "I'm sorry."

"I'm sorry."

"Shut up!" Brod shouted, his eyes turning bloodshot. In Brod's eyes, Nerva was nothing more but an enemy.

Nerva looked around. They were no longer fit for battle. The surviving players stepped forward and surrounded Brod to protect him. Nerva looked at them and asked, "Is there anyone here that is willing to surrender to the Luvien Empire and come under my command? If you come under my command, I will give you the honor of sharing the glory and honor in the new world."

Nerva truly meant those words. He wanted the talents that were being nurtured by the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom. They stood tall and their eyes remained steadfast and proud, even though they were all in a situation where they might die. They did not even lose their respect and trust in their king. Nerva actually felt that it was a waste.

"Your king is nothing but a trivial vessel that lacks qualifications. He cannot become an emperor."

It was a waste for such a small vessel to hold these people in his hands.

However, Grandpa Ben said, "Hoho. I'm sorry but you shouldn't compare your dirty vessel with His Majesty's vessel. How dare you discuss His Majesty's vessel, huh?"

Nerva looked around after hearing Spear God Ben's sharp and scathing words. His gaze seemed to ask everyone present if they would stand by his side, even if it were just one person. However, there was no one. A complicated expression flashed in Nerva's face as he raised his hand.

Seeing their emperor raise his hand, the soldiers of the Luvien Imperial Army raised their bows and aimed it toward them. Hundreds of thousands of arrows were now poised and ready to take their lives.

Meanwhile, Nerva wondered if there was anyone that was afraid. Alas, there was no one. The foreigners that were the main pillars and executives of the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom stood tall in front of all of their NPCs, who did not show any fear either.

Then, Brod muttered, "His Majesty will come back as an emperor."

"We have to welcome him with great fanfare then. Hoho."

Even the dying Luo opened his mouth and muttered, "...My king... *urk*... said that he would become the emperor."

"..."

Nerva was left speechless. For a moment, he felt very envious. It was a pity that the man they served was nothing but a small and trivial vessel. Just when Nerva was about to swing his hand down...

[The new emperor of the new era has been born!]

“...!”

Nerva stopped in his tracks. He was so shocked that he even forgot to breathe for a moment.

“Your Majesty, please look at the sky!!!”

Nerva, who heard the shouts of someone from his army, turned to look at the sky only to see the gigantic and translucent figure of the new era’s emperor sitting on his throne.

[The New Emperor’s Video will now begin.]

[You cannot refuse to watch the New Emperor’s Video.]

Both players and NPCs could not refuse the video that was about to play shortly. Just like that, the figure of the new emperor slowly grew clearer in front of everyone.

[His first step was swinging his sword to eat bread.]

The video that was playing in front of everyone was the advertisement video that Joy Co. Ltd. had prepared. It seemed that Joy Co. Ltd. was already certain that the first player that would become the emperor was none other than Minhyuk.

At that moment, everyone saw Minhyuk wielding his wooden sword to eat bread.

[The New Emperor made his way through Athenae, just so he could eat.]

Dozens of screenshots flashed in their eyes. There was a screenshot showing Minhyuk smiling brightly while enjoying some soup and garlic bread with Valen in his house. There was also a screenshot where Minhyuk met with the Witch of Agony Alicia while eating spicy braised chicken. Then another, where he happily grilled and ate some samgyeopsal for the first time in a long while.

Another notification rang as the screenshots flickered past their eyes.

[He continued to run for food. Then one day, he met them.]

A screenshot of when he met the Pinnacle Strong Men appeared. There was also the scene where he met with Legend Guild and reunited with his friends. The video showed how he laughed with Genie, Khan and Locke. Then, a screenshot showed Minhyuk sitting on a boat with an old man.

[Then, he met an old man.]

Several screenshots passed by once again. A screenshot with him smiling while eating ramyeon with Spear God Ben and a screenshot showing how they both defeated the Great Mage.

[He met the queen’s escort knight.]

Dozens of screenshots that showed his first meeting with Brod flashed in the sky above them. Then, Elpis’ figure appeared.

[He made toast for the pitiful person that he met in the Demon World.]

A screenshot showed Elpis eating toast.

[He made a grave for the poor and pitiful one's mother. The poor and pitiful one wept and knelt before him.]

The sky showed the day Elpis swore his eternal loyalty and allegiance to Minhyuk.

[He fought against the Great Demon for the sake of those that lived for him.]

A screenshot of Minhyuk flying toward Great Demon Verus to save Elpis flashed by.

[In the end, he won with the countless people that stood by his side.]

Dozens more screenshots flickered in front of their eyes.

Elpis smiling brightly.

Brod smiling happily.

Haze nagged at him saying, *'Your Majesty, please behave a bit...!'*

Love, Hope, Happiness grinning at him with their tongues sticking out.

There was also one with Luo walking behind Minhyuk with a small smile on his face.

The dozens of screenshots turned into hundreds as it showed the people that Minhyuk had built ties with, who eventually became members of the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom.

There was also one showing Centurion Park training the soldiers.

A scene of Gorfido going out to fish every day.

There was also a scene where Beanie and Luna rolled around.

Tens of thousands of screenshots had now appeared, with more of them appearing until they reached millions. The screenshots turned smaller and smaller, turning into dots that filled the sky.

[He took the first step just to eat bread.]

[Then, one day his small steps became the steps of many people as many people gathered around him.]

[He was once the humblest and most trivial player.]

[But people gathered around him and now, he's beginning to take the biggest steps.]

A screenshot of Minhyuk smiling faintly as he looked at the people cheering for him flashed in front of everyone.

[He was a normal human being.]

[He became the king of a small kingdom.]

[One day, he became a true and genuine god.]

[His vassals and subjects that believed in him also became gods.]

Tens of thousands of screenshots go by quickly, just like a video.

[And now...]

A small smile appeared on the faces of the Named NPCs and the players of the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom. They had been waiting for this moment, with utmost faith that he would achieve it.

[He became the First Emperor of the New Era.]

All of the screenshots disappeared, revealing the face of the emperor. The new emperor sat on his throne and looked at his people with a soft and gentle smile on his face. At the same time, another set of notifications rang.

[The Beyond the Heavens Empire has been established!]

The shabby and trivial steps became the greatest and noblest steps.

Chapter 835

Nerva gulped dryly, looking around anxiously as his heart thumped wildly. This was how wary Nerva, the emperor of the Great Luvien Empire, was of Minhyuk. However, not long after, Nerva guffawed.

‘How many empires and kingdoms have knelt before me?’

There were far too many of them. In fact, there were more than ten empires that had pledged their allegiance to the Luvien Empire. He did not know how Minhyuk managed to become an emperor, but the Beyond the Heavens Empire was just one among the many empires that would definitely kneel in front of him.

‘Will anything change even if you become an emperor, huh?’

Nerva did not think so. That was what made it even funnier to him. Even if they became the Beyond the Heavens Empire, the talents that supported Minhyuk and his kingdom were now on the brink of death.

‘Look.’ Nerva wanted to tell Minhyuk this, *‘Your vassals are already dying!’*

Sword of the Gods Luo was obviously dying. Spear God Ben had lost one eye and could not even stand without the support of his spear. Great Demon Elpis had lost his left arm because of the Sword of the Gods. The foreigners supporting the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom had died several times and had all grown weaker. What difference could becoming the Beyond the Heavens Empire bring?

The Luvien Empire had trampled on Minhyuk’s best subjects and forced them to collapse.

“Uwaaaaaaaaaaaaah!”

“Waaaaaaaaaaaaah!”

Once the Luvien Imperial Army charged through the cracks of their collapsed gate, the Beyond the Heavens Empire would collapse. Nerva turned to look at the people blocking the gates.

“Haa... haa... Urk!”

The dying Sword of the Gods Luo, who was leaning on the wall on the wall, struggled to pull himself up. He almost choked from the blood that he coughed up. However, he still squeezed the last of his strength to stand up. A faint and small smile appeared on his face. Then, he raised his

only hand to his forehead. And slowly, very slowly, he bowed toward his emperor, who was sitting on the throne in the sky above them.

“Your Imperial Majesty!!! Congratulations!!!”

“...!”

Nerva’s face grew ugly. Sword of the God Luo, despite having one foot on the grave, stumbled and struggled to bow toward Minhyuk. Then, one after the other, the people that blocked the gates of the kingdom bowed and shouted toward the translucent image that was projected in the sky.

“Your Imperial Majesty! Congratulations!!!”

“Your Imperial Majesty! Congratulations!!!”

“Your Imperial Majesty!!!”

“Your Imperial Majesty!!!”

“Your Imperial Majesty Minhyuk!!!”

The cries of the people rang from both inside and outside the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom’s castle.

Nerva’s face grew uglier by the second, his face filled with embarrassment. He had never been able to win anybody’s heart and loyalty like this in his life. Why did so many people decide to serve an insignificant and shabby emperor like Minhyuk? At this moment, Nerva felt infinitely insignificant.

Thankfully, the Beyond the Heavens Empire was on the verge of collapse. They no longer had any troops that could fight. Nerva raised his hand once again. Hundreds of thousands of arrows once again took aim, as Nerva slowly lowered his hand.

Ping, ping, ping, ping, ping, ping—

The hundreds of thousands of arrows shot through the skies. Seeing the rain of arrows coming their way, some tried to block them, some tried to evade, while some continued to bow to Minhyuk. But before the arrows could reach them, something strange happened.

Clang, clang, clang, clang, clang—

The hundreds of thousands of arrows lost their momentum and bounced off. It was as if they were toy arrows. Nerva frowned at the strange phenomenon. Then, he looked at the sword hanging on his waist that was shaking, as if it was resonating with something. When he looked back at his archer unit, he saw that their bows and arrows were also trembling and resonating.

[The Sun’s Sword loses its power in front of the Greatest Sword!]

“...!”

‘*The greatest sword?*’

Nerva did not know or understand what it was. It was not just him. All of the people present were affected by the appearance of the greatest sword.

Nerva suddenly felt nervous. He could tell that something strange was about to happen. Even though his weapon had lost its sharpness and momentum, the people in front of him all had one foot in the grave. It should be easy for him to deal with them.

Nerva stretched out his hands to grab Brod's neck. For an emperor, who wanted to maintain his dignity and grace, his display was poor at this moment. However, he knew that Brod was the one that posed the greatest danger to him. That was why he wanted to twist his neck and kill him in one go.

[Beyond the Heavens Empire's Guardian Deity has descended!]

'Beyond the Heavens Empire's Guardian Deity?'

Nerva chuckled.

Kingdoms and empires all had guardian deities, an example being how the Eivelis Empire worshiped the phoenix. Guardian deities were mighty, dangerous beings. However, that was only the case for ordinary people.

For Nerva, these beings did not pose any danger. He had the Sword of the Gods by his side and could kill whoever Guardian Deity had appeared.

[The Beyond the Heavens Empire's Guardian Deity is the tenth Absolute God!]

"...What?"

For a moment, Nerva thought that his ears were playing tricks on him.

'The Beyond the Heavens Empire's Guardian Deity is an Absolute God?'

There was no way that an Absolute God would willingly become a guardian deity. This was definitely not something that they would do. This was because Absolute Gods had huge influence over the world. If they became a guardian deity, then it would destroy the balance of the world.

[The tenth Absolute God, also known as the Guardian God, has become the Beyond the Heavens Empire's Guardian Deity to protect them!]

However, the notification that rang after the first one jolted Nerva back to his senses.

"This— this is impossible."

This meant that the tenth Absolute God himself chose to become a trivial and insignificant deity called the *Guardian God*, just to protect the Beyond the Heavens Empire.

"This is impossible!!!"

Nerva's face turned red as he quickly tried to crush Brod's neck.

Flash—!

Alas, before he could truly do so, the tenth Absolute God, the Guardian God appeared.

An extremely handsome man, whose face could make any god sigh, appeared with his long white hair fluttering behind him, while wearing pure white clothes that carried the symbol of the fork and knife crossed together. The god looked at Nerva with a haughty look on his face as he stood in front of Brod.

At the same time, countless notifications rang in Guardian God Obren's ears.

[As the Guardian Deity of the Beyond the Heavens Empire, you have the right to protect the nation and its people!]

[However, the Greatest God has imposed a restriction upon you. You cannot recklessly use the Guardian God's Books!]

[Since you have become the Guardian Deity of the Beyond the Heavens Empire, the range of the Guardian God's Books will be expanded. This state will continue to be in effect for just 24 hours.]

Nerva could not bring his hands any closer. The one that became the Beyond the Heavens Empire's guardian deity, the man that was once called the Evil God, was not someone that Nerva could deal with.

Obren smiled softly as he looked back at the people behind him. He said, "Thank you for holding on."

Along with that, a bright light burst out as one of the Guardian God's Books floated in the sky.

[Book of Recovery.]

[The Book of Recovery restores 80% of your HP and MP!]

[The Book of Recovery is the Absolute Authority that belongs to the Guardian God!]

[The Book of Recovery heals and restores all of your injuries!]

Flaaaaaaaaash—

As a bright and white light spread and covered the Beyond the Heavens Empire, Brod, who had been haggard and exhausted, regained his stability and was now breathing more smoothly.

Ben's damaged cornea was also slowly starting to heal. Elpis' lost arm was slowly being regenerated. Sword of the Gods Luo, who had been unable to move and looked like he had died after bowing, was also beginning to heal. The bodies of the soldiers that were cut and torn apart were all healed and restored.

Nerva was very flustered. The number of the Beyond the Heavens' troops that survived was roughly at 700,000. But this man in front of him had the power to help these 700,000 men recover all at once. It was something that even Nerva had never heard of before.

However, breaking out of his daze, Nerva burst into laughter after looking at the arrogant Obren. "Guardian deities can not attack others personally."

"..."

It was just as he said. Guardian deities could not attack others directly. Nerva might fear him if he was still the Evil God from the past, but he had now become the Guardian God and a guardian deity. He could no longer hurt him.

"Beyond the Heavens Empire's Guardian Deity, do you think you can change anything by appearing here?!!!"

The results would not change. Even if all of the troops of the Beyond the Heavens Empire had recovered, the Luvien Empire's numbers were still far superior. Nerva believed in his own power. Besides, he also had the Swords of the Gods with him.

Obren stared at Nerva silently for a moment. Then, he opened his mouth and said, "I am not the one that will bring punishment unto you."

Then, at that moment, Nerva felt the ground beneath his feet shake and tremble. He immediately turned to look around, his gaze settling on the horizon where a large army of 1.5 million appeared.

"...!"

Nerva's breath hitched. He was not aware of who they were. All of the troops of the Beyond the Heavens Empire were right here in front of him. So, who were those soldiers?

Standing in front of the 1.5 million strong troops was none other than *Alexander*. These troops were composed of around 800,000 soldiers that had become the new soldiers of the Beyond the Heavens Empire. As for the remaining 700,000, they were all players. They were the same players who had initially joined the Jade Emperor's Coalition Army, who were subsequently seduced by Minhyuk who gave them a quest.

"Uwaaaaaaaaaaaaah!"

"Waaaaaaaaaaaaah!"

Their loud roars rang loudly for the world to hear. The rain of arrows revealed by the 1.5 million strong troops put pressure on the Luvien Imperial Army. One had to remember that the Luvien Empire was an absolute existence that no one in Athenae dared confront so easily.

"Your— Your Majesty...!"

"There are far too many enemies!!!"

What was worse was the fact that the talents that were blocking the gates in front of them were recovering. Nerva scanned the enemies.

The Great Sage, Heaven's Equal Sun Wukong raised his Ruyi Jingu Bang and pointed it at the Luvien Empire and killed the enemies by creating hundreds of clones of himself. Zhu Bajie raised his trident and stabbed his enemies non-stop. There was also the Sword Saint Aaron, who left the Luvien Empire's soldiers helpless with just a swing of his sword. Then there was Alexander, who was leading the players. He was displayed a dance that none of the Sword of the Gods could keep up with.

However, Nerva was looking for a single man. Why was he nowhere to be found? It was none other than the Beyond the Heavens Empire's Emperor Minhyuk. He looked around uneasily but Minhyuk was truly nowhere to be found. Nerva felt quite relieved after seeing that Minhyuk was not around.

Rumbleeeeeeeeeeeee—

Nerva covered his sword with his divinity. All of the Sword of the Gods were able to exert divinity. However, among them, Nerva was the one that could exert a more intense and more powerful divinity. With his divinity, his sword could have the strongest cutting power. If he used a bow, his arrows could pierce through anything.

Craaaaaaack—

The air around Nerva crackled the moment he raised his divinity.

Shwaaaaaaaaa—

Energy running rampant, a bright stream of energy burst out and soared to the skies. What Nerva intended to do here was to kill all of these people before they could fully recover. Then, he would retreat with his men.

Using his divinity, Nerva increased the energy of his greatest Emperor's Skill, the *Emperor's Berserk Sword*. Because of that, the skill was now able to engulf an entire area of fifty meters, while his damage had increased to 20,000%.

The divinity that had gone berserk swirled and gathered around Nerva's sword.

Rumbleeeeeeee—

Nerva, whose hair had turned golden, tried to swing his sword.

“Didn't I tell you?” Guardian God Obren scoffed. “I am not the one that will bring punishment unto you.”

Poof—!

At that moment, a completely different person appeared right where Obren was before. Their positions were changed thanks to Sun Wukong's power.

The man was wearing the Slaughterer's Armor that was shining a bright golden light, with a white cape that carried the Beyond the Heavens symbol fluttering on his back. The emperor's crown was settled nicely atop the man's dark hair, while his pure and bright eyes glared sharply at Nerva.

Minhyuk's Sword of Aeon had been successfully reinforced by +3. Because of that, a lot of things, including his attack, had improved. But that was not all. A new *active skill* had been made available to him.

[You have triggered the Unhealable Injury!]

Minhyuk had already swung his sword before Nerva could finish casting his Emperor's Berserk Sword.

Shwaaaaaaaaa—

Minhyuk, who triggered his newly available active skill, slashed Nerva's face, the attack damaging not only the Luvien Empire's face but also his left eye.

[The Beyond the Heavens Empire's first achievement has been made.]

[You have made the first achievement: Injuring the Greatest Emperor.]

Drip— drip, drip—!

[You are the first player to have injured the Great Luvien Empire's Emperor!]

For a brief moment, the entire world was plunged into silence. Minhyuk had injured Nerva Sephiroth. For the Luvien Empire, Nerva Sephiroth was far more valuable than the sky and the land in their hearts. For the people of the Beyond the Heavens Empire, he was the Battle God's Sword, an absolute existence that reigned the world, and pushed them to the brink of their deaths.

Drip— drip, drip—!

"Keuaaaaaaaaack!" Nerva screamed, blood dripping through the gaps in his hand that covered his left eye.

"Aaack! Uwaaaaaaaack! Keuaaaaaaaaack!"

It was a pain that he had never felt before in his life.

"Your— Your Majesty!!!"

"Your Majesty!!!"

Don, the commander of the Sword of the Gods, hurriedly rushed forward and blocked Nerva from the enemies. He looked warily at Minhyuk and the other Named NPCs of the Beyond the Heavens Empire.

Don was indebted to Minhyuk due to the events when seeking Mandala before. If it was not for Minhyuk, he and the other Sword of the Gods would have already died. However, just because he was indebted to the man in front of him did not mean that he could not distinguish and separate his public and private matters.

The emperor of an enemy nation had inflicted a serious injury on their own emperor. This was a serious matter.

Glug, glug, glug—!

Knight Commander Don hurriedly pulled out a top-quality potion and poured it over the injured eyes of Emperor Nerva.

'The injury is not healing...?'

The wound did not heal even after using such a high quality potion. Seeing this, hundreds of priests hurriedly rushed forward and sent their holy power upon Nerva. But even that could not cure Nerva's injuries.

"What in the world have you done?" Don glared sharply at Minhyuk.

This was the power of *Unhealable Injury* that was attached to the Sword of Aeon.

Artifact Skill

- It leaves players, NPCs, or monsters with injuries that cannot be healed or recovered by recovery skills, potions or any other means.*

- However, in the case of players, the injuries would disappear once they are forced to logout.*

In Athenae, the higher the Named NPCs' levels were, the more difficult it was to deal with them. The main reason for this was because of their *recovery ability*, which was completely different from ordinary human beings.

Due to their high recovery ability, these NPCs could quickly recover even if a sword had dug deeply into their arms. In fact, even if their arms had fallen off, they only needed the power of an outstanding priest to attach it back. Of course, such a treatment would only be possible for the emperor of the Luvien Empire.

Considering that the skill allowed Minhyuk to cause a permanent injury on such a high-leveled Named NPC, the skill was more powerful than he initially thought.

'I can't defeat Nerva right now.'

Minhyuk could not deny this fact. Nerva was at least equal to or more powerful than Brod. But even though he could not win against him right now, at the very least he was able to weaken him with the *Unhealable Injury* skill.

Nerva's pain finally subsided. No, to be exact, his *fear and terror* finally came under control. Nerva had reigned as the strongest for all his life and had never felt such mind-numbing pain before. Because of that, he felt great fear.

Nerva, who covered one of his eyes tightly, glared sharply at Minhyuk, "Bastaaaaaaaaaaaaard!!!"

The divinity that wrapped around Nerva's sword earlier had already disappeared the moment a disturbance appeared in his mind. On top of that with Brod and Ben, who had already recovered from their injuries, standing on Minhyuk's left and right respectively, he could no longer repeat such a feat.

"Your Majesty, you can't." Knight Commander Don hurriedly stepped forward and stopped Nerva from charging forward.

"Uwaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaah!!!"

"Take Nerva's head!!!"

"Kill Nerva!!!"

"Long live the Beyond the Heavens Empire!!!"

Right behind them, the large army led by Sun Wukong, Zhu Bajie, and Aaron were slaughtering the Luvien Imperial Army's troops. However, the biggest threat to them was the fact that Brod and Spear God Ben, the existences that even the Sword of the Gods had a hard time dealing with, had now recovered.

The only reason why they were able to deal much damage to Brod and Spear God Ben before was because the Swords of the Gods had cleverly attacked them while they were exhausted. However, now that they no longer had any gap to take advantage of, there was no guarantee of victory if they attacked them right now.

Nerva was also fully aware of this fact. His breath was rough and heavy, his remaining eye turning bloodshot as he looked at Minhyuk furiously.

Then, Minhyuk opened his mouth and said, "The Luvien Empire has done something that it should not have." He raised his sword and pointed it at Nerva as he continued, "You have attacked the Beyond the Heavens Empire without any rhyme or reason and reaped the lives of many of my people."

Grit—

Nerva gritted his teeth. He was the emperor of the greatest empire. The number of empires kneeling at his feet were countless. He even had hundreds of kingdoms obeying his orders. Yet, a mere emperor of a newly-established empire was showing contempt in front of him? Unfortunately, Nerva was currently helpless in front of such contempt.

"To pay for that sin, destroy all of the Luvien Imperial Army troops in this place!"

"Bastaaaaaaaaaaaaard!!!"

Nerva grew even more furious. However, despite his anger, the situation unfolded in a different direction from what he expected.

"Your Majesty, you must go."

"Your Majesty. Please— please go quickly!"

"Please hurry and leave!"

If the ones present here were only the Luvien Imperial Army, the Swords of the Gods. or the Empire's Stars they would not have chosen to retreat. Even if they died, they would still do their best to decimate the troops of the Beyond the Heavens Empire. However, Emperor Nerva was with them. What was worse, his eye was injured and he was still bleeding.

"Kghhk!" A dull pain continued to assault Nerva. "I will come back to deal with you."

Nerva's words were like a signal and an acknowledgement that the Beyond the Heavens Empire had now become a newly-emerging empire. From this point, they would be known as the empire that forced the Luvien Empire to retreat.

"Order for a retreat..."

"Retreat! Retreat!!!"

"Retreat!!!"

The Luvien Imperial Army's troops began to retreat.

Brod turned to look at Minhyuk and asked, "Your Majesty, please give us your orders."

The fact that the Great Luvien Empire had chosen to retreat was already a huge surprise. However, true to what Minhyuk said before, he ordered for their destruction.

"Do not let a single person live."

He ordered for them to chase after the retreating army and kill them. Even though he said that, Minhyuk already knew that it would be difficult to kill Nerva and the Swords of the Gods. His orders meant only one thing, he wanted to kill the rest of their troops. He wanted to teach Nerva not to even think about looking toward the Beyond the Heavens Empire ever again!

“As the emperor of the Beyond the Heavens Empire, I command you! Do not leave a single man alive. Kill them!!!”

“Yes!!!”

The tightly closed gates opened as the Beyond the Heavens Empire’s soldiers, who had been hiding in fear earlier, charged forward.

Meanwhile, the commentators shouted in excitement.

[It— It seems like the Beyond the Heavens Empire is not satisfied with forcing them to retreat. They want to annihilate them!]

[If the Beyond the Heavens Empire annihilates their enemies, then they would be able to obtain greater achievements!]

[Now, the second battle has begun. Will the Luvien Empire be able to run away or will they die?]

Initially, the players’ desire and enthusiasm to win against Nerva and the Luvien Empire was strong since the start of Athenae’s second era. After all, Nerva was the Battle God’s Sword and the Luvien Empire was the greatest and the strongest empire.

They planned to gradually devour Nerva’s powerful army and one day, with their own power, slay Nerva and take his head. Then, it would show them that *they* were the true masters of Athenae.

However, their enthusiasm and excitement immediately collapsed and disappeared just after three months. Just a few weeks after the appearance of the Luvien Empire, an entire continent fell into their hands. A few more months after that, they invaded several more continents. Several more months after that, most of the continents, with the exception of the Asgan Continent, fell into their hands.

Under the name of an *Alliance Agreement with the Luvien Empire*, hundreds of kingdoms were forced to sign an agreement that allowed them to be exploited freely by the empire. Most of the empires also chose to side with the Luvien Empire.

Because of that, most of the players clamored loudly.

[Knight Arlo, the one that taught me how to use the sword, died last night in the war against the Luvien Empire. I’m so sad...]

[I am an orphan. That was why I am very happy to have met Hansen and his family. However, they were killed for no reason at all.]

[It’s just so sad.]

[Thankfully, there are laws set in place in reality.]

[I’m shelving Athenae.]

[Is there someone, anyone, who can help me get revenge?]

[I'm going crazy.]

[Please, I'm begging someone, anyone! Take down that damn Luvien Empire!]

[Take down Luvien!]

[Someone, do something please!]

[Rankers, please stop Luvien!]

[Luvien!]

[Bring Luvien down!]

[Damn you, Luvien!]

[F*ck you, Luvien!!!]

It was a silent outcry. In the end, some of the players either left or just gave up on the game completely. The Luvien Empire, who stood at the center of Athenae's second era, eventually began to encroach upon everything.

Now, one humble player had forced the Luvien Empire to retreat. And he was not even satisfied with that.

—Do not leave a single man alive. Kill them!

The hearts of the people thumped loudly as they watched over two million soldiers of the Luvien Imperial Army flee.

[Right. Please do that. Please kill every single one of those bastards. Do not leave a single one of them behind!]

[Kill Nerva, Food God!]

[Our Lord, Food God! We believe in youuuuuu!]

In Athenae, a place where the NPCs had now taken center stage, a single player, the Food God, had taken a stand. With his appearance, hope started to sprout in the hearts of the players once again.

However, the Luvien Imperial Army laughed at them.

“You? Destroy us? You have to be capable of doing something like that.”

“If His Majesty was not injured then we would not be retreating.”

They continued to laugh. Even if they retreated from the fight against the Beyond the Heavens Empire, it did not mean that they were scared. They were just stepping back to ensure that their emperor was not hurt and to reorganize themselves.

The Imperial Army thought that Sun Wukong and the coalition of players that came at them were nothing as long as the Swords of the Gods stepped forward.

“Retreat as fast as you can! It would be better if you spread out! Make sure to come back alive in the Luvien Empire!!!”

“...?!”

Knight Commander Don, who was helping His Majesty Nerva, had shouted. The soldiers could not understand his reaction.

‘Why is Commander Don acting like that?’

‘But we have obviously overpowered Brod, Spear God Ben, and all of the Beyond the Heavens earlier?’

‘No— no way...?!’

They all looked back and wondered about the changes happening in the enemy army. What was different from before? Was it the appearance of the Great Sage, Heaven’s Equal and another army? However, they believed that their current numbers were more than enough to pierce through the enemy’s defenses. So, what else has changed?

‘Emperor Minhyuk’s appearance?’

That was all but Knight Commander Don had told them to run as fast as they could.

“What is the matter with you?”

Only one person had appeared, so they could not understand the reaction of Knight Commander Don.

Baaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaang—

Slash, slash, slash, slash, slash, slash—!

At that moment, a loud and violent explosion erupted amidst the ranks of the retreating Luvien Imperial Army. When they looked back, they saw Brod, Spear God Ben, Sword of the Gods Luo, Great Demon Elpis, and the rest of the Beyond the Heavens Empire charging forward and wiping soldiers away with vicious and devilish expressions on their faces.

“Hi— hiiiiiiiiik?!”

“What— what the hell?!!”

In just an instant, more than 30,000 of the Luvien Imperial Army disappeared from their joint attacks. Only then did the soldiers of the Luvien Imperial Army recall something.

‘Food God Minhyuk is someone that can make the best buffed dishes!’

Minhyuk had used *Everyone’s Happiness* while they were busy retreating. He had also fed a total of ten people with the legendary dishes that he had prepared in advance. The ten people that he selected to feed those dishes included Brod, Ben, Elpis, Luo, Alexander, and Golden Mage Ali. Now, they had become 1.3x stronger than before.

“Haa.. haa... Quick! Go faster!!!”

“Run faster!!!”

The speed at which the Luvien Imperial Army retreated started becoming faster. Following Don’s orders, the soldiers scattered around. Unfortunately, even when they did so, Sword of the Gods Luo,

Informant Abel and Asura Ascar chased after them and swiftly cut them down. At that point, they realized that running away scattered around like that made it harder for them to counter the enemies.

“Hi— hiiiiiiiik!” Hanson, an ordinary soldier, screeched in terror when he looked around him.

The almost 2.5 million troops of the Luvien Imperial Army had disappeared in just over two hours. He could also see Knight Commander Don running with the unconscious Emperor Nerva on his back.

“Sir— Sir, did you give us that order because you knew that the Food God could create extraordinary buffed dishes and can make our enemies stronger?!”

Hanson was just a soldier. In fact, he did not know where he got the courage to ask their commander such a question. But even so, he still asked.

However, Knight Commander Don gulped dryly, his head shaking in answer. “...That’s not it.”

Hanson felt thrilled. Knight Commander Don answered his question! But then, he saw Knight Commander Don look back with a frightened look on his face. And *someone* was standing right where Don was looking.

“It’s because I’m afraid of him.”

Hanson turned to look back. He saw the Beyond the Heavens’ Emperor standing in front of the retreating army. Then, something strange happened.

Creak— Tick, tick, tick, tick—

A *person* suddenly appeared in front of the enemy emperor. His body was being supported with thin and transparent lines that looked similar to the lines used in fishing. The *person*’s body twisted and creaked, just like a puppet made out of wood.

Clack, clack, clack—

Not long after, the wrong body parts finally aligned and fitted together. None of the soldiers of the Beyond the Heavens Empire or the Luvien Empire knew the identity of the puppet. However, that was not the case for the soldiers of Edea. They clearly recognized who it was.

“En— Envoy Viel?”

That was right. The one that appeared in front of Minhyuk was none other than Envoy Viel, who had become a wooden puppet.

Chapter 837

Edea’s Envoy Viel was the most powerful among the Jade Emperor’s envoys. He was someone that could deal huge amounts of damage and had a defense that could rival that of Brod’s. Minhyuk even acknowledged his skill in swordsmanship to be so outstanding that it could be called a cheat.

Perhaps, the only reason why the Jade Emperor did not love and care for him was because of his twisted personality. If Viel’s personality was not that twisted, he would have been the one left in command of the Heavenly Army.

“It’s— It’s Viel...!”

“That’s Viel!”

“Hiiiiiiiik!”

“How did Viel appear again?!”

To the residents of Edea, Envoy Viel was an *evil villain*. He was someone that killed their comrades without even blinking. However, they clearly remembered him dying.

“What’s this? Don’t you think there’s something weird?”

“Why did that guy suddenly appear in front of His Majesty Minhyuk?”

Each and every single bone in Viel’s body twisted and turned until it cracked into place. As it turned out, the one standing in front of the retreating troops of the Luvien Imperial Army was Puppet Viel.

- You can control Puppet Viel to show his complete power for ten minutes.*
- Puppet Viel can use most of the skills that Viel had in his possession.*
- Puppet Viel had a tiny strand of ego left.*
- You will be able to obtain 50% of the EXP and all of the item drops from whoever Puppet Viel kills.*
- Even if Puppet Viel gets completely broken, it will restore itself within a week.*

As an enemy, Viel was a true and utter menace. However, he was completely reliable as an ally. Just like that, the tide of war in the frontline was completely reversed.

The Luvien Imperial Army’s strongest cavalry charged forward with their spears to take out Viel and Minhyuk, who were blocking their path.

‘Why the hell am I afraid of Emperor Minhyuk?’

Cold sweat dripped down Knight Commander Don’s face. He was recognized as the strongest knight of the Luvien Empire, and yet, the strongest knight was afraid and wary of Minhyuk.

Then, something very shocking happened.

Creak, creak, creak—

Puppet Viel jumped forward. He either evaded the spears that were aiming for his body, or moved to split the weapons apart, the movements that he displayed so close to being called divine.

“Heok!”

Just like that, Puppet Viel swept away the charging cavalry at a breakneck speed.

Shwaaaaaaaaa—

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

Hanson, who witnessed everything with his own eyes, could not bring himself to believe the scene in front of him. The enemy was not that different from Knight Commander Don.

Creak! Creak! Creak!

Bang, bang, bang—! Slaaaaash—!

What was worse was that Puppet Viel did not seem to feel any pain. He ignored whatever attacks they sent and just went on his own rampage. In just a few minutes, hundreds of people died by Puppet Viel's hands.

'We're not able to move forward...?!'

The only one that blocked the path of the retreating Imperial Army troops was Puppet Viel. He was moving in a straight line, looked at the enemies around him and immediately raised his divine power.

'This is crazy.'

Even Minhyuk, the owner of the *puppet*, was impressed by Puppet Viel's performance. The truth was, Minhyuk was only barely able to beat Viel before. At that moment, Puppet Viel swung his sword that was brimming with divine power.

"Tiger's Wind."

[Tiger's Wind.]

[The Tiger's Wind will devour an entire radius of 300 meters and deal 2,000% additional damage.]

Baaaaaaaaaaaaang—!

Slash, slash, slash, slash, slash, slash, slash—

A huge and ferocious wind devoured the Luvien Imperial Army. The wind sounded like a tiger as it roared and whipped around, tearing apart the imperial army. To make matters worse, the cavalry and soldiers were all in the middle of retreating. Because of that, some of them accidentally entered the skill's 300 meter radius coverage.

"..."

Minhyuk was left speechless. He had not seen the Tiger's Wind skill when he fought with Viel before. Perhaps Viel had found it to be a waste to use an AOE attack skill with 2,000% additional attack on Minhyuk. It was probably also because the casting time was way too long to be used in a war.

'However, the additional 2,000% attack power on top of Viel's own attack is enough to wipe out the retreating troops of the Luvien Imperial Army.'

It had a lower additional attack compared to Minhyuk's Overlord's Technique. However, the Tiger's Wind made up for it with its wider radius of coverage.

In just an instant, the Imperial Army's troops that got caught in the 300-meter radius all turned into corpses that piled high up like a mountain and dyed the ground red.

[You are currently at war with the Luvien Empire!]

[You will be able to acquire 50% of the EXP and 100% of all of the gold and artifact drops obtained from the beings killed by the puppet!]

[You have gained 1,300,010 EXP.]

[You have gained 1,505,130 EXP.]

[...EXP.]

[...EXP.]

[You have obtained 7,513,013 gold.]

[You have obtained 9,413,100 gold.]

[You have obtained 13,000,203 gold.]

[...gold.]

[...gold.]

It was amazing to the point that one might find it difficult to express with the right words.

‘Is this a... ten minute absolute macro hunting...?’

Macro Hunting or, in other words, automatic hunting, was a way where one could obtain EXP and artifacts without lifting a single finger. Although Puppet Viel could only be used for a mere ten minutes, he was clearly very useful.

“Ughhhhh...”

“Crazy...”

Everyone was taken aback by the might that the Beyond the Heavens Empire was showing. To be exact, they were shocked with how the situation changed drastically with just the appearance of Emperor Minhyuk. However, the most important thing to note here was the fact that Minhyuk had not even made a move yet.

Minhyuk slowly took out a potion bottle that contained a liquid that was shining brightly with a variety of colors.

‘Viel’s Mysterious Elixir.’

It was also an item that Minhyuk had obtained after hunting Viel.

Gulp, gulp, gulp—

Minhyuk drank everything in one go.

[You have consumed Viel’s Mysterious Elixir.]

[Viel’s Mysterious Elixir will randomly pick one of your stats and raise it by 10~50 points.]

An elixir that could raise any stat by a single point was already worth tens of millions of won. This elixir could increase a random stat from anywhere between 10 to 50 points.

[Viel’s Mysterious Elixir has permanently increased your STR stat by +36!]

The notification brought Minhyuk delight. He had already planned to show what the emperor of the Beyond the Heavens Empire was capable of in this battle. Obtaining a +36 permanent increase in STR was like giving him wings.

The STR stat had a huge influence on one's basic or skill attack. A boost on such a stat was enough to increase the damage substantially.

It had to be known that Minhyuk had acquired 200 stat points when he hunted Gaerna in the past. He had left these stat points be so that he could use them for a very critical moment. Now, he used these stat points to increase his STR and AGI.

[You have gained 100 STR.]

[You have gained 100 AGI.]

These 200 points added to his stats was equivalent to twenty levels.

"...He's coming. Run! At full speed!!!" Knight Commander Don shouted just as Minhyuk charged forward and clashed with the Luvien Imperial Army.

Baaaaaaaaaaaaang—!

No matter how strong Minhyuk was, it would have been very difficult for him to kill the Luvien Imperial Army all at once. They were at least at Level 450. However, now it was possible for him to deal with them. The Sword of Aeon had an attack power that was beyond 3,000 and he was even able to level up after hunting Viel. He had also invested 250 stat points appropriately.

'Watch. I will show you the majesty and dignity of the Beyond the Heavens Empire's emperor.'

The symbol 'Explosion' appeared on the blade of Minhyuk's Sword of Aeon. With every swing of Minhyuk's sword, numerous enemies died all at once.

"Keheooook!"

"How can this be?!"

The Luvien Imperial Army was terrified. Bloody lightning strikes would fall and cut down dozens of their troops with every swing of Minhyuk's sword.

'I will take the lives of your soldiers and return what you did to my soldiers ten fold, a hundred folds.'

Minhyuk was the type of person to return both favor and ill-will that he received several times back. At that moment, a set of notifications rang in his ears.

[You have wiped out 313 enemy troops.]

[You have met the conditions for triggering the Ten Thousand Swords.]

Minhyuk had finally achieved a 100% of the Thousand Swords' skill proficiency. Now, he was finally able to obtain the Divine Sword's final chapter, the Ten Thousand Swords. However, the requirements needed to trigger the skill were very tricky.

‘Kill 30,000 enemies with a hundred level difference with you with only your passive skills and basic attacks.’

It had been a very difficult requirement to fulfill. But it was now possible for Minhyuk. The enemies’ numbers and levels were both high.

Shwaaaaaaaaa—

Slash, slash, slash, slash, slash—!

Crack—

“Uwaaaaaaaaack!”

“Keuaaaaaaaaack!”

“U— Uwaaaaaaaaaah!”

The sight of Minhyuk charging forward alone as he annihilated the enemies that were at the forefront was spectacular. Thousands of the Luvien Imperial Army’s troops deliberately tried to bypass Minhyuk to flee, while the screams of their comrades rang out. However, Minhyuk unleashed hellish and blazing flames upon them.

“Overlord’s Technique.”

Rumbleeeeeeeee—

Baaaaaaaaaaaaaang—!

The hellish flames burst out and devoured the fleeing soldiers. The attack killed thousands and turned them into ashes in an instant. But Minhyuk was not yet done. He immediately used his *Lightning* skill.

Baaaaaaaaaaaaang—

A huge lightning bolt fell down from the sky and devoured the Sword of the Gods that tried to restrain Minhyuk. It was immediately followed by hundreds of lightning strikes that killed the Sword of the Gods and the troops around Minhyuk, making them disappear without a trace.

[You have wiped out 33,514 enemy troops.]

[You have met the conditions for triggering the Ten Thousand Swords.]

‘Not enough. It’s still not enough.’

“Not a single person will leave this place alive.”

Those words were not some kind of nonsensical declaration. He truly meant to kill each and every single one of them, with the exception of Nerva and his Swords of the Gods.

Slash, slash, slash, slash—!

“Uwaaaaaaaaack!”

“Aaaaaaaack!”

The Luvien Imperial Army started to tremble in fear when they saw how frightening and vicious Minhyuk was as he charged at them. The man was not showing them any mercy.

[The morale of the Luvien Imperial Army has dropped sharply!]

[All of the troops' abilities will drop by 20%!]

"Hiyaaa!" Knight Commander Don could only groan in both shock and terror as he carried Emperor Nerva on his horse and ran.

'Is he really going to kill all of our troops?'

It sounded like it was impossible. Of course, Don had already thought that Minhyuk and his troops might be able to catch up to them and kill around 40% of their Imperial Army. However, looking at the situation right now, it seemed like what he said earlier was not just nonsense.

The Luvien Imperial Army had already lost 800,000 of their troops. In other words, it was 40% of the total number of their troops, while they were trying to run away from the Beyond the Heavens Empire.

In the end, the Luvien Imperial Army broke down.

"Please— Please let us go!!!"

"Please spare us!!!"

"Aren't— Aren't you supposed to be a benevolent and kind person?!!"

It was quite funny to hear someone spit the words *benevolent and kind* in a situation like this. Minhyuk could not help but laugh. However, just in case, he unleashed God's Voice upon those that depended and leaned on him.

[You have triggered God's Voice.]

[He was called the kind and benevolent king.]

[He loved being with his people, laughing and crying along with them.]

[The people served their king.]

[And the king cherished and cared for his people.]

[The people trusted and believed in their king up until the moment they died.]

When they heard the part *'until the moment they died'*, the Luvien Imperial Army realized... *'Ah. We're at war. We laughed at the people of the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom when we were slaughtering and trampling on them.'*

[My king will return as an emperor.]

[He vowed to the dead soldiers and people of the Beyond the Heavens Empire...]

[I will not let a single person leave this place alive.]

Minhyuk took a deep breath as he stood in front of the fleeing army. At that moment, a huge amount of divine power slowly started to seep into his sword.

[The Ten Thousand Swords is now available for use!]

[Due to the penalty for triggering the Ten Thousand Swords, the skill's level will drop to Level 1.]

[Guardian God Obren soothes the pain that you feel over losing the people that you cherished and loved dearly!]

[Obren's Embrace.]

[With Obren's Embrace in effect, the skill will be 50% better than normal.]

Minhyuk finally unlocked the Ten Thousand Swords, one of the chapters under the Divine Sword that his beloved teacher Sword God Valen had left him. The moment he triggered the skill, a shocking notification rang in everyone's ears.

[Ten Thousand Swords]

[Pierces the hearts of the enemies.]

[Ten Thousand Swords.]

[Ten Thousand Swords is a skill that can demonstrate great power when it comes to large-scale battles!]

[Ten Thousand Swords will chase after the stronger enemies and pierce through the hearts of 'Ten Thousand' enemies!]

[Each sword of the Ten Thousand Swords has 6,000% additional attack!]

[Those that had been grazed or cut by the Ten Thousand Swords in passing will receive an additional 3,000% damage!]

The Ten Thousand Swords was a skill that sounded more like a homing missile. It would go after centurions, legions commanders, knights, and all other commander-level individuals among the hundreds of thousands of enemy and pierce through their hearts.

Not long after, a bright flash engulfed Minhyuk's sword as ten thousand swords shot out toward the hearts of the enemy troops.

Stab, stab, stab, stab, stab, stab—!

[You have killed Luvien Imperial Army's Legion Commander Ardal.]

[You have killed Luvien Imperial Army's Knight Foldo.]

[You have killed Luvien Imperial Army's 13th Knight Order Commander Auburn.]

[...Luvien Imperial Army's...]

[...Luvien Imperial Army's...]

The notifications rang non-stop in Minhyuk's ears.

Chapter 838

The Ten Thousand Swords skill summoned ten thousand swords made of light, which pierced through the hearts of the commander-level individuals among the enemy troops. Anyone

unfortunate to have been brushed by these swords even when they were not the intended targets all suffered from an additional 3,000% damage.

It was like a disaster fell upon them. Most of the soldiers were left with serious injuries even before the swords pierced through the hearts of the outstanding warriors within their ranks. The worst part was that most of the warriors died after getting hit by the Ten Thousand Swords.

The Luvien Imperial Army was left to deal with a huge and incomprehensible loss after the Ten Thousand Swords came after their commander-level individuals, regardless of their distance from Minhyuk. Over 150,000 soldiers of the Luvien Imperial Army had either died or were gravely injured.

However, the pressing matter here was the state of the commander-level individuals. The Luvien Imperial Army's squad leaders were around Level 480, their centurions at around Level 500, while their knights were at Level 540 or higher. Just like how players grow, these NPCs could also grow. Compared to before, their level had definitely become higher and were all stronger.

However, these commander-level individuals were collapsing one after the other after being hit by Minhyuk's Ten Thousands Swords.

Stab, stab, stab, stab, stab, stab, stab—

Don's face grew uglier as he watched the commanders die one after the other. These individuals were the main pillars of the Luvien Imperial Army and were the ones in charge of leading the 2.5 million troops under the emperor's command.

The Swords of the Gods might be able to survive such an attack, but that was not the case for the commanders. These people all had great potential and were the ones that they had hoped to become the Luvien Empire's future powerhouses.

At that moment, one of the ten thousand swords shot forward and pierced through Commander Don's heart.

Staaaaaaab—

"Ugh...!" Don groaned from the intense pain that bloomed on his chest. Then, his eyes grew wide after realizing something. He clutched his chest tightly as he looked back at Nerva.

Staaaaaaaab—

Don tried his hardest to stop the sword that flew in to attack Nerva. However, all that he did was get injured even further. He could not stop the sword and watched helplessly as it pierced through Nerva's chest.

"Ughhh..."

Nerva's closed lids snapped open when the sword pierced through his chest. However, the intense pain instantly knocked him out cold again. They were now in a very bad situation, with Nerva in a critical situation.

Knight Commander Don looked around.

—*He's really amazing.*

This was what Commander Don thought when he first met Minhyuk during their expedition to win over Mandala. During that brief interaction, he was able to know what kind of a king the man was and even developed great fondness for him. Ever since Knight Commander Don had encountered Minhyuk, his memories of the past would often flash by his head.

However, it was impossible for him to cooperate or surrender to the Beyond the Heavens Empire. In the end, he was Nerva's subordinate.

"Hiyaaaaaa!!!"

Don thought that it was best that he command the soldiers to retreat and leave this place to save as many as possible. But now, those thoughts changed. He had to save Nerva first and foremost. So, Don rushed his horse and rode at full speed.

Baaaaaaaaang—

Spear God Ben tried to chase after them but Commander Don was able to swiftly block his attack, even though he had Nerva with him and was riding his horse.

"Commander!!! Go quickly!"

"Please go on ahead!!!"

Two of the Swords of the Gods appeared to block Spear God Ben. Most of them were just low ranking Swords of the Gods. However, they decided to sacrifice themselves for Nerva's sake.

"I acknowledge your bravery."

Spear God Ben looked bitterly at them. He was aware that it would be very difficult to reach Nerva now that there were people willing to sacrifice themselves to protect him. Of course, the others were well aware of this too. In the end, the horse that carried Don and Nerva rode further and further away from them.

After running like crazy, Don finally realized that there was no longer someone chasing after them. Before he knew it, he had reached the hills and the mountains. When he reached the top of one of the hills, he looked back over at the Beyond the Heavens Empire.

"..."

Commander Don stared at the Beyond the Heavens Empire for a very long time. He could see that the Beyond the Heavens Empire had already killed most of the retreating troops of the Luvien Imperial Army.

Don pulled the reins of his horse and turned around.

'The Beyond the Heavens Empire will grow rapidly.'

This was what Commander Don personally thought.

The entire world was left in turmoil.

Everyone knew that Athenae's second era would be under the rule of the Luvien Empire. They all thought that when Athenae's third era began, they would all likely be dogs of the Luvien Empire.

However, the small and trivial Beyond the Heavens Kingdom had grown and became an Empire. They even decimated the Luvien Imperial Army's troops.

[To be honest, it's already very surprising that Food God Minhyuk has become an emperor.]

[If you have seen the war in Edea, you will know that Player Minhyuk had fought against the Jade Emperor's Coalition Army alone and won the hearts of the people of Edea.]

[And that is the reason why he is able to obtain a huge foothold.]

[Player Minhyuk must have taken everything into consideration.]

[In the end, the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom has become the Beyond the Heavens Empire. On top of that, they have even defeated the 2.5 million retreating troops of the Luvien Imperial Army. This is going to be a huge scoop.]

[However, there are still a few small problems here and there. The Beyond the Heavens Empire were barely able to meet the requirements for establishing an empire. It was an extremely close call.]

[That's right. While the Beyond the Heavens Empire was established successfully, they lost so many soldiers and residents today.]

Waaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaah!!!

Loud and passionate cheers shook the Beyond the Heaven Empire. The people and the soldiers cried out and chanted Minhyuk's name to celebrate their victory. Even Spear God Ben, Brod, Elpis, Luo, and many others approached Minhyuk to congratulate him.

However, they all shut their mouths not long after. Minhyuk's expression did not look good. Of course, obtaining victory was a happy and good thing. However, Minhyuk could clearly see their losses through the notifications.

[The Beyond the Heavens Empire has lost 754,313 troops.]

[The Beyond the Heavens Empire has lost 210,003 residents.]

[You have won the war against the Luvien Empire.]

[The total amount of the spoils of war obtained from the war against the Luvien Empire will now be listed.]

[You have obtained 954,100 platinum.]

[You have obtained 1 God-rank Artifact.]

[You have obtained 3 God-grade Ingredients.]

[You have obtained 231 Legendary-rank Artifacts.]

[You have obtained 368 Legendary-grade Artifacts.]

[...Epic-rank...]

[You have gained 5,000 REP.]

[You have gained 200 CHA.]

Countless notifications about the rewards that they had obtained rang in Minhyuk's ears. The total amount of the spoils of war that they had obtained was ridiculous. However, none of them entered Minhyuk's eyes. The only thing that he could see were the deaths of more than 700,000 troops and 200,000 residents.

Minhyuk looked around. He could see the bereaved families crying loudly as they hugged the corpses of their loved ones, whose bodies had been torn beyond recognition, amidst the other cheering citizens.

Many of the victims of this war were soldiers. However, some of them were just ordinary citizens. There were parents crying loudly as they hugged the body of a young boy and even a man sobbing as he hugged the body of the woman that he had been set to marry. Almost a million of his people had been killed in this war.

Minhyuk approached the crying woman that held the body of her child tightly to her chest. He placed his hand on her shoulder and spoke heavily, "I promise you this. I will do my utmost to send them off peacefully and comfortably to the afterlife."

"Your Majesty...!"

Minhyuk looked around once again as he declared an imperial decree, "Use a million platinum for their funerals. Also, bestow the bereaved families with the highest compensation and make sure to build proper graves for all of the victims of this war."

[A— A million platinum!!!]

[...!]

The commentators were all shocked. A million platinum was worth hundreds of billions of won in cold, hard cash.

On the other hand, Haze looked at Minhyuk and thought, '*Your Majesty. Please tell me that you have thought of a way, Your Majesty.*'

Of course, Haze welcomed the establishment of the Beyond the Heavens Empire with open arms. The problem was that they lost almost a million people in this war.

Minhyuk had not yet led the residents of Edea to the newly established empire. He lacked the military troops to do so. Their military troops might seem to be numerous, but that was only the case when they were still a kingdom. Now that they had become an empire, they would have to face countless enemies. Their current military forces were only comparable to the military force of a large kingdom at most.

They also had to expect a decrease in the number of migrants. After all, many would hesitate to move to the Beyond the Heavens Empire, knowing that they would face huge dangers in the near future.

Although they had won the war against the Luvien Empire, they had become an empire that might collapse at any given moment. The Beyond the Heavens Empire now had to find a way to entice many migrants and establish friendly connections with many kingdoms and empires. Having the reputation of *defeating the retreating Luvien Imperial Army* was not enough.

Everyone, including the people and the troops, were aware of this fact. Rather than enjoying the fruits of their victory, they had to worry more about their future. If things continued at this rate, the Beyond the Heavens Empire would really be driven to collapse. If that happened, then there was a high chance that the Luvien Empire would send troops once again.

At that moment, Minhyuk murmured, "I will succeed."

Everything happened in an instant. The people of the Beyond the Heavens were left in sorrow, worrying about what to do in the future. But then, millions of round lights the size of a fist slowly floated down from the sky. Everyone looked at the lights in doubt.

Among these round and bright lights, there was one light that looked brighter and sharper than the rest. This light slowly grew and took the shape of a little girl that looked to be around five years old or so.

The little girl, with wings similar to that of an angel, grabbed and threw flower petals from the basket in her hands. The petals split until there were tens of millions of them in the sky, slowly poured down upon the Beyond the Heavens Empire.

[You have seen the Battle God's Angel.]

[The Battle God's Angel is comforting your sad and grieving heart.]

After that, the Battle God's Angel disappeared while millions of lights gathered around Minhyuk. Then, the round lights gathered together and formed a throne that he could sit on.

Both the people and the soldiers were forced to take a step back when the millions of lights suddenly brightened and each took on the form of a human carrying the symbol of the *Beyond the Heavens Empire* on their backs.

[The three million strong Battle God's Army will stay by your side for a week!]

[The three million strong Battle God's Army will be absolutely loyal to the new Battle God's Descendant for a week!]

[Battle God's Soldier. Level 503.]

[Battle God's Knight. Level 561.]

The lights had now turned into knights wearing silver full-plate armor and soldiers wearing red armor. They all stood at attention and created a path.

Thud, thud, thud—

Minhyuk slowly walked to the throne.

[You have sat on the Battle God's Throne.]

[You have met all of the requirements for the Absolute God Class: Battle God's Descendant!]

[You possess the Food God Class.]

[Battle God's Descendant will now be your subclass!]

[You have gained 5,000 REP.]

[You have gained 2,000 CHA.]

[Since you have had a subclass before, you will be able to retain your skills. The new Battle God's Descendant's skill will be added to your repertoire!]

[The new Battle God's skills are now open!]

[The Battle God's...]

[The Battle God's...]

[The Battle God's...]

Minhyuk's gaze was filled with majesty and nobility as he looked at the Battle God's Army amidst the constant notifications that rang in his ears. This army would be absolutely loyal and subservient to Minhyuk for an entire week. The subsequent notifications also informed Minhyuk that he had acquired several of the Battle God's Descendant's skills.

[The Battle God's Blessings has been activated!]

[Everyone that belongs to the empire under the command of the Battle God's Descendant will have a 15% increase in their EXP Acquisition Rate!]

[Everyone that belongs to the empire under the command of the Battle God's Descendant will have a 15% increase in their Item Drop Rate!]

These notifications also applied to the players as well. The players that belonged to the Beyond the Heavens Empire quickly announced this fact to the world.

[The Absolute God's Class: Battle God's Descendant has been born to the world!]

This single notification that was sent out as a world message created a huge buzz.

At the same time, the three million strong Battle God's Army knelt down on one knee and showed respect toward Minhyuk. Right behind them, the more than two million residents and troops of the Beyond the Heavens Empire also knelt down, before shouting.

“Congratulations on becoming the new Battle God!”

“Congratulations on becoming the new Battle God!”

At the same time, another world message rang.

[The Battle God has chosen Beyond the Heavens Empire's Emperor Minhyuk, and not Luvien Empire's Emperor Nerva, as the Battle God's Descendant!]

Minhyuk, with his noble and lofty gaze, looked straight ahead and declared, “Come to the Beyond the Heavens Empire.”

Chapter 839

The Beyond the Heavens Empire was now given the time to restore the things that had been destroyed during the war. As for Minhyuk, he decided to take a day off.

He had done quite a lot of things within a short period of time, from meeting the God of Death, to lifting the seal of the Sword of Aeon, then saving the dying Obren, and leading Edea to victory,

before finally leading his Beyond the Heavens Empire to victory in the war against the Luvien Empire. It was obvious that Minhyuk was in desperate need of a break.

While Minhyuk was fast asleep, the others once again realized the greatness and majesty of the first empire in Athenae.

Oh Changwook, Minhyuk's health trainer, saw a huge crowd of over 200 reporters, as well as countless fans outside their home.

Click, click, click, click, click, click, click—

“Where is Mr. Minhyuk, Athenae's first emperor, currently staying at?”

“The people of South Korea are going nuts!”

“In this globally acclaimed game, Athenae, one of our very own citizens, became the first emperor. Many of our fellow citizens are proud of Mr. Minhyuk, and want to hear his thoughts about this.”

However, what was more surprising was that there were also quite a lot of reporters from other countries mixed in with the Korean reporters in the crowd. These reporters looked like they had headed straight for this place after their plane landed, without even spending the time to wash up.

“Minhyuk is resting right now. Please come back another time.”

Although Changwook spoke those words, he knew that none of them would go back easily. Knowing that Minhyuk was not available at the moment, the reporters turned their attention to the people that lived around Minhyuk's place and interviewed them instead.

“How does the Beyond the Heavens' Emperor Minhyuk usually act?”

“Goodness. You don't even have to ask. He's a very nice boy. He always greets me politely whenever we see each other~”

“He's different from the kids these days. He's very humble and approachable.”

Minhyuk had deliberately bought a lot in a retirement community and built his mansion there. Because of that, the majority of his neighbors were elderly. Most of the elderly in the community were not even aware that Minhyuk was a famous player in the game called Athenae, nor were they aware that he had become the first emperor in the game.

“Beyond the Heavens Empire? Athenae? I don't know about that. All I know is that I want him to be my son-in-law~ There aren't that many kids these days that are humble and approachable like him.”

Rather than get frustrated, the reporters were very happy to hear these things.

“Reporter Kim, let's publish this interview as it is and use the title *Warm Young Man, Minhyuk* for the article.”

“Warm Young Man, Minhyuk?”

“The elderly here do not know what kind of player Minhyuk is. However, Minhyuk had always greeted them and treated them politely. In other words, his behavior is not just some pretense. Some celebrities act differently on screen and off screen. But Minhyuk has always treated everyone kindly and politely.”

“Ah...!”

Minhyuk was still in the middle of sleep. However, several articles praising him had started to pour in.

At the same time at Ilhwa Group.

“Our stock price hit an all-time high a few days ago and is still continuously rising.”

Minhyuk’s father, Chairman Kang Minhoo, was very surprised to hear this. “By any chance... did it all start when my son, Minhyuk, became the emperor of the Beyond the Heavens Empire?”

“Yes, that’s right. The players of Athenae from all over the world are feeling grateful to Minhyuk after he gained victory against the Luvien Empire. Because of that, people from all over the world started to buy items produced by Ilhwa Group.”

“Ho.”

Chairman Kang Minhoo was very proud of his son. Even he, the chairman, could not raise the company’s stock prices like this. However, Minhyuk could easily do so through his own worth and value.

Then, at that moment, Secretary Park Munsoo approached Chairman Kang Minhoo and whispered in his ears, “*Roiple* has proposed a collaboration with us for a project.”

“What...? Weren’t they the ones that did not even look at the proposal that we sent them two years ago?”

“I asked the reason why when they called me on the phone earlier. The representative said that he’s a big fan of your son, sir.”

“...”

Chairman Kang Minhoo was truly proud and touched. This was no different from Minhyuk stepping forward and signing a contract that was worth hundreds of billions of won.

Then, it started. Chairman Kang Minhoo’s bragging about his son!

“You know, my dear son Minhyuk is...”

‘It’s this story again.’

‘He’s going to say that a child of only three months old went and called him ‘Daddy.’

‘No. There’s no way that a three-month old child can speak, right?!’

Then, Chairman Kang Minhoo said, “He called me ‘Daddy’ fifteen days after he was born. Hohohohohoho! My son, Minhyuk, has been a genius since he was born!”

“...!”

“...!”

“...!”

The board members were all flabbergasted. There was absolutely no way that a fifteen-day-old baby could say *Daddy*, right? Was this son-con final boss of a man brainwashed or something?!

“Ha— Hahahaha. That’s— That’s really amazing.”

“I can’t believe he said *Daddy* fifteen days after he was born. Minhyuk must have been truly a genius since he was born!”

“Hohohoho! That’s right. Right!”

This was the reality that salarymen had to face every single day.

Three days. Three days was not enough time to overcome the sadness brought forth by the war.

However, they were also able to restore quite a few things that had been ravaged and destroyed during the war in these three days. Although they were able to sort out the most urgent matters, they would still take at least two more weeks before things could return to normal.

At this time, Minhyuk decided to provide a meal for the people of the Beyond the Heavens Empire, which was none other than samgyeopsal. Minhyuk had given an order to give players and NPCs alike 400 grams of samgyeopsal per person. Although he only gave 400 grams of samgyeopsal each, it still cost a huge amount of money. It was a portion for each and every single one after all.

Because of that, Haze began to protest. “Your Majesty, I understand what you’re feeling. However, the situation of our Beyond the Heavens Empire is currently not that good.”

Haze was relieved when she learnt that Minhyuk became the Battle God’s Descendant and that three million of the Battle God’s Divine Army would protect the Beyond the Heavens Empire for a week. This meant that the Luvien Empire and the other empires would not dare to attack the Beyond the Heavens Empire during this week.

However, they still had to prepare for the future. They had to save as much funds as they could in order to buy weapons and potions. The funds saved could also be used to increase the number of migrants or bring in mercenaries to their side. But instead of doing that, they were having a meat party?

“Haze, I won’t give way on this. All of us are trying to live and survive. It’s always better to worry when you’re full.”

“...”

Haze sighed. She already knew that she would not be able to change Minhyuk’s decision.

Minhyuk was sitting on the walls of the castle. From where he was, he could see some of his people and his soldiers that had already sat down and began to eat.

“If there are people that don’t have enough, make sure to give them some extra.”

“...Yes, Your Majesty.” Haze shook her head, her steps weak and faltering.

However, Minhyuk thought differently.

‘What has a greater impact than me establishing an empire? It’s the fact that I have become the Battle God’s Descendant.’

There were two men who had been given the chance to become the Battle God. They were Nerva and Minhyuk. Nerva, who was originally going to become the complete Battle God, had failed while Minhyuk succeeded. Minhyuk believed in the potential that this would bring forth.

To be honest, it had been far too difficult for Minhyuk. He had been struggling after being forced to do labor for several days. On top of that, he had almost been driven crazy from hunger.

Smoke floated above the piping hot grill as Minhyuk placed a thick piece of samgyeopsal on top of it.

Sizzleeeeeeee—

Minhyuk looked very excited as he added more samgyeopsal on top of the grill. Of course, he had already prepared the meat table right before he started grilling. The table was complete with boiling doenjang jjigae that were usually served in meat restaurants, and volcano steamed eggs in small earthen pots.

Today, Minhyuk had prepared a very special dish to eat with his samgyeopsal. It was none other than *bibimmyeon*. Every once in a while, it was amazing to cook instant bibimmyeon instead of making some naengmyeon to eat with the samgyeopsal.

‘It will be even better if I go to a valley to eat this.’

However, he was still satisfied with what he had today. In a blink, the samgyeopsal was already drizzling with oil and sizzling nicely on the grill. Minhyuk quickly cut up a thick piece and dipped it in salt. The greasy flavor of the meat instantly spread in Minhyuk’s mouth the moment he bit into the meat. Next, he dipped another piece of samgyeopsal in ssamjang.

“Kghhk...”

It was a flavor that could naturally evoke one’s admiration.

This time, Minhyuk grabbed a piece of lettuce, placed two pieces of samgyeopsal dipped in samjjang on it, along with some other ingredients garlic and onion, before wrapping everything up and putting it in his mouth.

Munch, munch—

The various ingredients met in his mouth and produced a pleasant harmony of flavors. Next, Minhyuk spread out a piece of victory onion on the plate before adding a piece of samgyeopsal and a tiny dollop of wasabi on top.

When Minhyuk put everything in his mouth, the first thing that greeted him was the fresh flavor of the victory onion. It was immediately followed by the light and savory flavor of the meat, then the stinging, spicy taste of the wasabi.

A delighted smile curled at the corner of Minhyuk's lips as he scooped a mouthful of rice and put it in his mouth. Just like that, he scooped a spoonful of the boiling deonjang jjigae and ate it together.

"Kghhk! Spicy!"

Since he had been under extreme stress lately, Minhyuk purposely added another cheongyang pepper in the jjigae to make it spicier.

Then, Minhyuk scooped a huge spoonful of the volcano steamed eggs and placed it on the well-cooked white rice. After that, he pressed the steamed egg until it was crushed with the flat of his spoon and mixed it with his rice. After mixing everything well, he scooped a mouthful and put it in his mouth. He thoroughly enjoyed the myriad of flavors, before stretching his chopsticks toward the bibimmyeon.

"Sluuuuuuuuurp!"

The spicy yet sour bibimmyeon instantly washed away the greasiness that settled in Minhyuk's mouth. And even though he was already eating it, its unique flavor still made his mouth water.

Of course, Minhyuk had to eat it with samgyeopsal. He placed a piece on top of the bibimmyeon. Then, he clamped it with his chopsticks and placed everything in his mouth.

"Sluuuuuuuuurp!"

There was no need for ssamjang. The sweet and sour bibimmyeon and the samgyeopsal was already the perfect match. However, Minhyuk actually found the instant bibimmyeon a little disappointing.

"I only grabbed two mouthfuls with my chopsticks and an entire bag is already done."

Of course, it was still fine. After all, Minhyuk cooked ten bags. Just like that, Minhyuk enjoyed a break after a very long time.

Meanwhile, Haze looked at him uneasily.

Haze was fully aware of what Minhyuk was concerned about. She knew that her emperor believed that he would be able to attract many people by virtue of becoming the Battle God's Descendant.

To be honest, Haze was also hoping for this to happen. There was a chance that the kingdoms and empires, especially the ones ravaged by the war against the Luvien Empire scattered all throughout Athenae, would come and take the side of the Beyond the Heavens Empire.

So, Haze waited. If things proceeded according to expectations, they would have come here after a day or so. However, none of them had come. It was most probably because they were all afraid to take risks.

'Your Majesty, we're in trouble.'

Haze looked sad as she watched Minhyuk eat his meal happily. Perhaps their empire might collapse in just less than a month.

Right then, a report came in.

"Prime Minister Haze, there are people looking for His Majesty."

“His Majesty? What’s their status?”

“That... They say that they cannot reveal it unless they meet with either His Majesty or the executives.”

Haze looked at the guard that came to her in confusion. His Majesty was still having his meal, she did not want to disturb him. Haze followed the guards to see who came. When they reached the walls, Haze saw dozens of people on horseback wearing black robes and keeping their identities hidden. Actually, there were several people on horseback coming toward the Beyond the Heavens Empire from all directions.

“Who are you?”

Upon hearing Haze’s question, the people in front of her slowly took off the hood that covered their heads and faces.

“I am a diplomat from the Akarron Kingdom. I came here to congratulate you on the establishment of the Beyond the Heavens Empire!”

Haze was very surprised when she heard the man introduce himself. Haze’s knowledge of the kingdoms and empires was not limited to that of the Asgan Continent. She was also very knowledgeable about the kingdoms and empires from all over the world. Akarron Kingdom was a kingdom that had a huge influence in one of the continents in the world. However, the surprise did not end there.

“I am the emperor of the Ruako Empire. I came here to discuss something with the newly crowned emperor, Minhyuk.”

“...!”

Haze’s eyes grew wide as the hooded people introduced themselves one after the other.

“I am King Loic. My kingdom has been ravaged and destroyed by the Luvien Empire just recently. I have led the people and soldiers that I have hidden to migrate to the Beyond the Heavens Empire.”

“I should be the one that spoke first! I came here first!”

“What are you talking about?!”

“Oho. How dare a small border nation like you speak up like that, huh?”

It was quite a sight to see. The diplomats and representatives sent by the empires and kingdoms from all over the world were arguing that they came first. But that was not the end. There were still diplomats, kings, and even emperors arriving one after the other.

However, the question was why did they not lead an army? And why did they come so late?

“Dear noble guests, why do you all look like you’re in such a hurry?”

At that question, one of the diplomats said, “Did you not know? The Luvien Imperial Army has blocked all of the paths leading to the Beyond the Heavens Empire and are monitoring it strictly.

Because of that, I have to be as stealthy as possible. That's the reason why I'm the only one that came here."

"Ah...!"

Haze realized something that she had overlooked before. However, it seemed like Minhyuk did not overlook this matter. That was why she was in a state of awe.

By virtue of Minhyuk becoming the Battle God, countless empires and kingdoms that were spread all over the world would rush to forge friendly relationships with him and the Beyond the Heavens Empire. If that was the case, what should Haze as the prime minister do here?

"To be honest, I don't really know..."

"..."

"...?"

"...who came first and who should see His Majesty first. His Majesty is currently eating inside. This is a problem."

All of their ears perked up as they listened to Haze.

"With the establishment of the Beyond the Heavens Empire, we have to develop a stronger force. However, it's a pity. Ha... Money. Haa... It would be great if there's an empire or a kingdom that can provide us with some support, no~?"

"...!"

"...!"

"Well, if there's an *empire* or a *kingdom* like that, then they would probably be the first to meet His Majesty..."

The moment her words ended, a commotion broke out.

"I actually brought 1,000 platinum as a gift to celebrate the establishment of the Beyond the Heavens Empire!"

"I— I brought 2,000 platinum!"

"I brought 5,000!!!"

Then, Haze said, "Five thousand platinum! Is there more?!"

"I— I have 10,000!!!"

"There, ten thousand! Is there more?!"

"I have 100,000!!!"

"Okay, okay. There's a hundred thousand! If you add a bit more, then you will be able to see His Majesty first! Is there more? Let me tell you once again, His Majesty is both

the Food God and the Battle God. He's someone that has defeated seven million of the Luvien Imperial Army's troops!"

"Wasn't it just 2.5 million?"

"He unofficially defeated 4.5 million troops!"

"...!"

"...!"

Haze was an expert in coating her words with gold and putting worth in something that otherwise did not.

"I— I have 200,000!"

"Is there more?! Alright. His Majesty, the emperor of the Ardo Empire will be the first to see His Majesty Minhyuk!"

"Thank— thank you!"

However, for some reason, the emperor of the Ardo Empire looked listless. Somehow, an impromptu auction was suddenly held in order for them to meet Emperor Minhyuk.

Ardo's Emperor looked around and thought, '*The Beyond the Heavens Empire is truly a formidable empire.*'

At this moment, the woman called Prime Minister Haze was able to snatch almost a million platinum in one go, and it was even through an auction. As expected of a woman that could sell dirt for millions of platinum. Then, at that moment, an unexpected voice rang in Haze's ears.

[The God that is Good at Lying is both in shock and in awe.]

[*The God that is Good at Lying has been watching you and your king.*]

[The God that is Good at Lying thought, 'That king and that vassal...']

[The God that is Good at Lying has made a huge decision!]

[The God that is Good at Lying is offering you the God of Fraud Class!]

Chapter 840

Haze was left in both confusion and doubt. She could not understand why the God that was Good at Lying offered her the *God of Fraud* class.

'*This is not some fraud or scam. This is a pure business deal though?*'

Then, another voice rang in her ears.

[The God that is Good at Lying is shocked that you can't even recognize the 'scam' that you did.]

[The God that is Good at Lying shouts that you are the one and true candidate for the God of Fraud! It shows in your bones!]

"...?"

Haze truly could not understand it. However, she quickly shook off all of the questions she had, instead focusing on the crux.

‘I... I can become a God?’

Haze had never considered herself someone as a candidate to become God. After all, gods were objects of worship and were beings that stood above humans. They were the great and holy ones.

However, there were quite a few Continental Gods around Haze. Seeing those Continental Gods made Haze realize that being a God did not necessarily mean that they were pure and holy. The Gods around her had to live for eternity. Also, because of their titles, they had to live with constant danger.

Haze believed that she did not have anything special like those other gods. She did not have excellent spearmanship like Spear God Ben, nor a talent that could cause the envy of all like God of Alchemy Mandala. She also could not lead a demonic army like Elpis. Haze was just... an ordinary woman.

To be honest, the prospect of becoming a God was quite scary for her. At the same time, there was another emotion.

Grip—

Haze tightened her palms into a fist.

‘Your Majesty...’

She could still clearly remember that day. When she first met Minhyuk, she was nothing but a prisoner. To be honest, she could have died that day. However, Minhyuk saved a miserable girl like her and gave her a new leash in life. Haze only slept three hours per day in the position of prime minister, as she wanted to repay her benefactor, Minhyuk.

The Beyond the Heavens Empire was now in a precarious state. She was just one person, one talent. However, if she became a God, then she would be able to shoulder a lot of His Majesty’s problems.

Haze licked her lips. She was scared but she still mustered up the courage. This was so she could become a great help for His Majesty.

‘I will become God.’

With Haze’s acceptance of the offer, the voice rang in her head again.

[You have accepted the God of Fraud Class.]

[The God of Fraud’s Trial will now begin.]

[To become the God of Fraud, you have to use your brilliant communication skills and flexible adaptability to gain ten million platinum in two weeks.]

[If you fail the God of Fraud’s Trial, you will receive punishment and will no longer be able to ‘lie’!]

Haze was very relieved when she saw that the penalty for the trial was not as heavy as she thought.

‘I would no longer be able to lie?’

It had to be known that Haze had never thought that she had lied in her life. The words that she uttered were not lies. They were words of investment! Look at the situation in front of her right now.

'Didn't these people willingly give the auction money for a chance to be the first person to meet with His Majesty and gain benefits from the Beyond the Heavens Empire? Isn't it beneficial for both sides?'

At that moment, Ardo's Emperor, the one who won the right to be the first to meet His Majesty Minhyuk, sneaked up to her and asked, "Are the rumors about the Emperor going to a place called Edea and killing a God-like man true?"

Haze nodded and whispered in his ears, "Your Majesty, I'm only going to tell you this information. Officially, he killed one. But unofficially, he killed three."

"...!"

Haze... was a woman who did not know how to lie.

After eating his fill of samgyeopsal, Minhyuk returned to his office. However, he could not help but feel puzzled.

'Where did Haze go?'

Haze, who was normally right next to him, was nowhere to be found. However, since they were not in the middle of a war, the fact that she was not here meant that there was something special that she had to attend to.

At that moment, Minhyuk recalled that he was able to shoot two birds with one stone. The first was becoming the very first Athenae player to become an emperor. By establishing the Beyond the Heavens Empire and becoming its emperor, he was able to meet the conditions required for the Battle God's Descendant's Class Transfer.

Among the things that he gained by becoming an emperor, as well as the successor of the Battle God, there were quite a lot of things that would prove to be of great help to the operations of his empire.

When Minhyuk became an emperor, he received quite a lot of rewards, including 20,000 REP, 10,000 CHA, and platinum, which appeared in his inventory right away, which was no less than one million. But that was not all. All of the NPCs of the Beyond the Heavens Empire also received a 5% boost in all of their abilities. It was a huge increase in strength for the already powerful people who protected the empire.

The rewards sounded very grand, but this was only possible because he was the *first* player to achieve such a feat. There was a chance that whoever became the next emperor would only receive half of what Minhyuk had received today.

Then, Minhyuk quickly checked the details of the title that he obtained.

Unique Title

- All of your stats will increase by 4%.*

- The effects of all of the skills related to CHA will increase by 12%.*

- Passive Skill: The Sovereign's Sword*

- NPCs and Players belonging to the Beyond the Heavens Empire will receive a 3% increase in all of their abilities, as well as a 6% increase in skill damage when they are fighting within 50 meters of their emperor.*

- You will be able to acquire rewards if the system recognizes the achievement that you have made as the First Emperor.*

It was a truly outstanding title.

Although The Sovereign's Sword could only be triggered through a very small probability of 0.6%, it could increase his basic attack damage by fifteen times. Since the effects were way too overpowered, it was only natural that it could only be triggered with a very low possibility.

There was also a 3% increase in all abilities and a 6% increase in skill damage for all of the NPCs and players fighting alongside their emperor. In the first place, the NPCs that belonged to Minhyuk's empire were all outstanding individuals who could deliver shocking power. What more if their stats would increase by 3%?

However, the most noteworthy thing out of everything was the Achievement System. Achievements could only be recognized if someone had done something very, very amazing, or something that no one else had. Minhyuk was very happy that there would now be a system that could recognize whatever achievement he would make and reward him appropriately.

After checking the title, Minhyuk checked *Emperor's Authority*.

Effects:

- The Emperor's Comfort*

- Sealed*

- Sealed*

- Sealed*

It was just like the explanation said. An emperor had many Authorities. And as a rookie emperor, Minhyuk could only use one of those authorities.

•You can give comfort to your people, your soldiers, your Named NPCs, or even the players that belonged to your empire.

•The more sincere you are in comforting them, or the higher your CHA is, the more likely it is for the other person who received your comfort will be able to overcome hardships and adversities.

•Those who receive your comfort will sometimes be able to overcome their limitations and enjoy benefits like stat effects or buff effects.

Minhyuk nodded. It seemed to be a skill that would boost the effect when he comforted his people. Minhyuk did not take this skill to be that big of a deal.

‘Ah, come to think of it... how high is my CHA now?’

Minhyuk had been steadily building his CHA. Among other things, this was a stat that could only be obtained if one created achievements or showed off their charisma as a commander or a king.

When Minhyuk became an emperor he was able to obtain around 10,000 CHA, and around 2,000 more when he became the Battle God’s Descendant. Perhaps Minhyuk had the highest CHA in all of Athenae by now.

Minhyuk left these things behind for now. There were far more important things that he had to look over. And that was the various skills and rewards that he had gained for becoming the *Battle God’s Descendant*.

[Battle God’s Descendant will now be your subclass!]

[Since you have had a subclass before, you will be able to retain your skills. The new Battle God’s Descendant’s skill will be added to your repertoire!]

[You cannot obtain attack skills because you have had a subclass before.]

[The new Battle God’s skills are now open!]

[You have obtained the Battle God’s Cry.]

[You have obtained the Battle God’s Summons.]

[You have obtained the Battle God’s Recruitment.]

[You have obtained the Battle God’s Communication Skills.]

[You have obtained the Battle God’s Immortal Knight Order.]

[You will be able to acquire new skills if you meet various requirements and conditions.]

[You are the Battle God's Descendant and the Food God. You can now pick the 'Food God's Swords'. The Food God Swords will have a 10% increase in growth and a 3% increase in all of their stats.]

[You can pick a total of thirty Food God's Swords. These thirty Food God's Swords will be the ones that will prove your power.]

[Every time the Food God's Swords grow, you will receive a special privilege.]

The fact that he could bring out the Food God's Swords was very useful for Minhyuk. Perhaps these Food God's Swords would play the same role as Nerva's *Sword of the Gods*.

As he looked at all of the skills that he gained, his eyes were particularly drawn to one skill, which was none other than the *Battle God's Immortal Knight Order*.

Active Skill

- You cannot summon those that belong to the Beyond the Heavens Empire.*
- You can gather and rally everyone that you know, whether they are at the end of the world or in Hell, in front of you as long as they give you their explicit approval.*
- Those who have been summoned can only fight for you for four minutes.*
- Your CHA stat will permanently decrease every second upon summoning the Immortal Knights. The permanent decrease will depend on the number you summoned.*
- Your EXP will permanently decrease every second upon summoning the Immortal Knights. The permanent decrease will depend on the number you summoned.*
- The moment you gather the Knight Order, your HP will immediately drop to 20%.*
- You can select the commander of the Immortal Knights that you will gather.*
- The commander of the Immortal Knights will have a 1.2x increase in strength.*
- The Immortal Knight Order boasts highly of their covertness. They would appear with a ragged look and would wear a horned helmet on their heads. The horned helmet will cover their face making it impossible for others to see through the identity of the knights.*

It was an interesting skill. He could ask for the approval of someone that he knew in advance and summon them when he needed them. Of course, he also had to ask for their approval again if he chose to summon them. However, the penalty was tremendous.

'The CHA will decrease per second?'

Even his EXP would drop. It seemed like it was a skill that he could not afford to use many times. However, assuming that he was in a situation where he would be able to receive quite a lot of benefits to the point that it could outweigh the losses, then it might be worth using it once.

So, Minhyuk began to ask for the consent and approval of the people that he knew. He could not help but laugh when he thought about these people.

[Requesting for Approval!]

[Requesting for Approval!]

[Requesting for Approval!]

[Requesting for Approval!]

He constantly sent requests for approval. As for those who received his request, the notifications that rang in their ears went like this:

[The Battle God's Descendant is asking you to be a part of his Immortal Knight Order. He requests that you be summoned whenever he needs you!]

[You can either approve or reject his request upon his summons.]

On the other hand, Minhyuk was also worried. Most of the people to whom he sent the request were all arrogant and prideful in their way. However, there were still some that could evoke a small smile on his face just at the thought of them.

Minhyuk waited nervously. Which of them would approve their request? Then, the first shot was fired.

[Saintess Loyna accepts your request for her to become a part of the Immortal Knight Order!]

[Pope Roacad accepts your request for him to become a part of the Immortal Knight Order!]

[Pope Achert accepts your request for him to become a part of the Immortal Knight Order!]

The Athenae Religion views Minhyuk favorably. Perhaps they were thinking that approving this notification would prove to be of great help to the Beyond the Heavens Empire in the future. With that thought in mind, the Athenae Religion answered his call.

[Overlord Raldo accepts your request for him to become a part of the Immortal Knight Order!]

A shudder ran down Minhyuk's spine. The Overlord himself, Raldo, willingly joined his knight order to fight under his command, albeit only briefly.

[Mercenary King Venteio accepts your request for him to become a part of the Immortal Knight Order!]

There was also the Mercenary King who united all of the mercenaries on the continent.

[Elf King Argon accepts...Immortal Knight Order!]

The ruler of all of the elves declared that he would fight by his side.

[Great Demon Gremory...]

One of the three Great Demons, the most arrogant and stubborn woman in the Demon World, joined his forces.

[Sword Emperor Ellie accepts your request for her to become a part of the Immortal Knight Order!]

The Continental Emperor who refused the position of the Sword God raised her sword and stood by his side.

[...accepts...]

[...accepts...]

[...accepts...]

[...accepts...]

[You have received the approval of 19 members for your Immortal Knight Order!]

Minhyuk smiled in delight. Then, there was the last knight.

[Sword God Valen accepts your request for him to become a part of the Immortal Knight Order!]

[You have recruited 20 members of the Immortal Knight Order!]

[The commander of the Immortal Knight Order will now be chosen.]

[The Immortal Knight Order's Commander is 'Sword God Valen'!]

The strongest Knight Order was born at this very moment.