

The Legendary Moonlight Sculptor

(달빛 조각사)

Volume 32

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Story Description:

The man forsaken by the world, the man a slave to money and the man known as the legendary God of War in the highly popular MMORPG Continent of Magic. With the coming of age, he decides to say goodbye, but the feeble attempt to earn a little something for his time and effort ripples into an effect none could ever have imagined.

Through a series of coincidences, his legendary avatar is sold for 3.1 billion won, bringing great joy to him, only to plunge him into despair at losing almost all of it to vicious loan sharks. With revelation of money through gaming, he rises from the abyss with new found resolve and steps forward into the new age of games led by the first ever Virtual Reality MMORPG, Royal Road.

This is the legend of Lee Hyun on his path to becoming Emperor with only his family loving heart, his boundless desire for money, his unexpected mind, his diligently forged body and the talent of hard work backing him.

Original Story can be found here: [Link](#)

Chapter 1: Expansion of the Arpen Kingdom

Weed was advancing through the quests for the final secret sculpting technique. Sword of Light that Splits Everything Radiant Sword reached Advanced level 2 after training on the stormy sea. Now he needed to make a nature sculpture for his connected quest. It was a quest that he had to pass as a sculptor!

“If I became a merchant then I would receive quests that will enable me to make profit from trading. Nature Sculpting is extremely difficult...it is natural to be worried.”

A technique that could carve nature! It was a type of miracle that could use clouds, water, wind, wood and even dirt as a material. A red tinged sunset, coloured leaves, the coast and snow covered mountains. Anything could be expressed using Nature Sculpting. Weed started to look for land that he could fill with a nature sculpture.

“I have to make the sculpture in the north. I won't be comfortable creating it in any place other than the north.”

Land speculation was important when creating the sculpture. The land of the Arpen Kingdom in the north was constantly widening. The kingdom's fame and influence in neighbouring regions was high and that also benefited users. When users from the Arpen Kingdom visited other villages, the residents would run out aggressively.

“I have been waiting for someone from the Arpen Kingdom to come!”

“Ah, hello.”

“There is something I want to ask of you Adventurer. Did you bring any wonderful artwork from the Arpen Kingdom?”

Ddiring!

-Arpen's Art

Sculptors, painters, ceramists etc. are producing many works in Morata

of the Arpen Kingdom. Residents in the north who couldn't see the rumoured artwork are envious.

They want you to bring them a piece of art. The residents will react favourably to strangers if you complete this kindness for them.

Level of Difficulty: E

Quest Restrictions: Visitor to the village.

The visitor must belong to the Arpen Kingdom.

It wasn't difficult so users happily accepted the quest. They had collected many sculptures and paintings from their time in Morata. Therefore they were able to complete the quest as soon as they received it.

The residents wanted to hear stories about dangerous adventures to unknown lands and traded with merchants. The users who completed the quest, helped restore peace and did commercial transactions opened the hearts of the residents to the Arpen Kingdom.

-The residents of Carmel River look up to the Arpen Kingdom.

They are a small community that obtain food through fishing. They build houses high on the river in order to avoid the threat of monsters.

The fishermen who have knowledge of the species in the river complex have their eyes opened to culture thanks to the Arpen Kingdom. It is only a small community but they are eager to belong to the Arpen Kingdom.

Small and deserted villages will welcome migrants.

Specialties: 17 species of freshwater fish.

Population: 63

Monthly Tax Revenue: 3 gold.

-The residents of Niasan village look up to the Arpen Kingdom.

Residents can obtain income through logging and gathering mushrooms in the forest. In the meantime a trade route has been established and there are frequent exchanges with merchants.

The residents are in need of good and wish to trade with the Arpen

Kingdom. The village has respect for the King of the Arpen Kingdom and wished to be ruled by him.

Specialties: Wood, mushrooms

Population: 319

Monthly Tax Revenue: 536 gold

The territory of the Arpen Kingdom was steadily expanding. Small villages that didn't belong to anyone after the fall of the Niflheim Empire was actively absorbed by the Arpen Kingdom's influence. Furthermore, the users were also very excited.

"In the old days, no visitors were allowed into the village and now I am receiving the utmost welcome."

"If I speak then they will answer right away."

"Hey, yesterday the neighbourhood child picked flowers for me as a gift."

The influence of the Arpen Kingdom was favourable to the users. There was a boom in development and trade expansion in the north.

"I have to offer my loyalty to the Arpen Kingdom's King who did so much for the north."

"He is a king who knows devotion and honour."

NPC lords and nobles also came to join the Arpen Kingdom. Although the territory was widening, the economic profit from the residents was small.

Weed was very sensitive about taxes and the amount paid to lords had already decreased. If the village was small then the tax would only be 30 gold, 70 gold and 1,000 gold at most. But it was a tremendous opportunity for farmers, miners and merchants.

"Which village are you going to?"

"I'm going towards the east."

"That place is a wasteland."

"I'll have to clear it. I'm going to make it my land."

“Well, I’m going to the large mountains to the northwest to look for iron ore.”

“If the ground is weak then you’ll be in danger.”

“There is no need to worry since we’ve gathered 100 miners. I’ll work until my pickaxe breaks.”

The area that Morata users spent time in gradually widened. The birth-rate of the entire North Continent increased and production was expanding. Soldiers secured the peace for settles and villages in good locations rapidly developed.

Morata was the capital of the Arpen Kingdom and now many medium sized villages were showing up. Luxury shops, housing and production facilities were built to increase the infrastructure of the kingdom’s capital city. Beautiful buildings were created and gave the city a more romantic and glamorous appearance.

The entire north was welcoming the Arpen Kingdom. The impact of Weed’s influence was that residents would obey if he ever gave orders in the villages. Weed was satisfied with the Arpen Kingdom.

“Land speculation...I need to create a nature sculpture that is comfortable for Morata and Vargo Fortress.”

He flew on Wy-3 in the sky and searched for a suitable location.

“Land not being used for anything else. Location is everything.”

The magnificent mountain terrain was too high and the wide rivers were likely to become flooded.

Broken remnants of the Niflheim Empire was scattered around the north. Trees grew in the forgotten cities that have become ruins. There were many ruins that hadn’t felt the touch of a human in ages so they were in a natural state.

“If I make a nature sculpture...Then I need to consider the cities that can grow in the vicinity.”

He also considered transportation development, residential areas and

hunting when making a decision about the location. The place Weed decided on had a clean and clear river to the east and a wide, fertile plain to the north where a big city could develop. There were no obstacles preventing him from making the nature sculpture he wanted.

“A group of monsters roaming nearby is a problem but...I’ll subjugate them sometime.”

The Arpen Kingdom’s military power was expanding far quicker than most people expected. It was because many users who were knights commanded soldiers while fighting on the plains. NPC free knights came from the Central Continent. Among them were knights from the Kallamore Kingdom. The levels of these free knights were somewhat higher.

Users who completed quests and gained achievements could rent free knights. The Knight Corps of the Arpen Kingdom had 1,000 people but they weren’t resting. They subdued monsters, helped move settlers and constructed cities in the Arpen Kingdom.

“I need to make a natural environment where people can rest. Until now, the Arpen Kingdom had only been surviving.”

It was inevitable since it was a new kingdom. Everything started from Morata and those living there were being worn out. If users exchanged money for hunting and trade then they would also be searching for a place to relax. Thus he had already prepared construction work for a city of recreation and tourism.



Birds sang vigorously as the day began. A small golden bird opened its wings and flew somewhere.

Kukukuku!

Tweet tweet.

Jjororong.

Golden Bird was flying around unusually large birds. Unlike common

birds, the sparrows were the size of chickens and there were owls wandering in the morning. The beak and claws were strong enough to penetrate iron. Golden Bird was heading towards Lavias, the island in the sky.

“Our fellow kin is coming.”

“That sparkling crown on his head...”

“It is him.”

A bird with good eyesight reported that Golden Bird was coming. Dozens then hundreds of birds from Lavias came out to meet Golden Bird. It received the best treatment from the birds.

The size, type and colour of Golden Bird compared to others was truly magnificent. Golden Bird circled around the island before landing on the ground. It perched on a branch after landing on Lavias.

“It has been a long time, children.”

The avians nodded their heads. Unfortunately their memory was bad so after a while they wouldn't even know their parents or siblings. But they didn't forget about Golden Bird. The first bird created by Emperor Geihar Von Arpen.

Sculptures and paintings celebrating Golden Bird still remained in Lavias. In the past when Weed came to Lavias, he hadn't climbed up its nest. Some users climbed up and discovered the existence of Golden Bird. This legendary existence had finally visited Lavias.

“I came here because it is time that we moved.”

The avians flew around at Golden Bird's words. The avians simultaneously flapped their wings while spinning in the sky. It was difficult to guess the population of the avian clan. Houses were built in the centre of the island and stores engaged in business but some birds barely left their nests.

More than 100 birds had the hobby of living in trees and chirping! Fierce birds also had wild and tough battles in the dungeon and hunting ground

of Lavias. Additionally, there were the eggs that haven't hatched yet. Many avians walking around didn't even know English.

Piyak?

Paek paek paek paek!

The birds on Lavias ran around flapping their wings and making a lot of noise. The birds on the ground also flapped their wings in an uproar. Baran village on the ground had no idea about what was happening in the sky. Ever since Baran village fell into the hands of the Embinyu Church, very few users stayed there.

“What is this?”

“Shh, an event seems to be happening.”

“Then what is it? We can't go near that area.”

The birds filled the streets, trees and fences of Lavias. Users were unable to come near this area and were force to watch from a distance. Golden Bird allowed them to calm down before saying.

“The continent has fallen into disorder. Humans are moaning in pain so our noble group can't just watch.”

Normally when hearing such a speech, humans would clap and cheer.

Tweet tweet.

Piyak piyak.

Kkwae kwae kwaeek!

The small and young birds opened their wings and cried out in agreement.

“These days humans in the Rosenheim Kingdom aren't farming properly.”

“It is becoming increasingly difficult to obtain nutritious rice.”

“I don't like eating worms...”

The avians were used to luxurious tastes. They also experienced

difficulties when humans went to war. Golden Bird was a leader that could affect the fate of the entire race.

“We will go to the North.”

“What is there?”

A small and cute-looking yellow bird asked.

“There is fine grain there and you can eat as much as you want.”

The avians decided to move due to these words! The avians didn't just pack their belongings and fly to the north. Such a method was possible but it wasn't necessary. That afternoon, Laviasthe sky island started to move.

The whole island was moving through the sky towards the north. All the dungeons, hunting grounds and shops were moved.



“It isn't possible to do this alone. I have to bring Yellowy!”

He was reminded of Yellowy's existence whenever hard work was required. Weed decided to report the success of the Radiant Sword quest in Rhodium first.

“I've developed my sculpting in order to protect the Versailles Continent.”

It was instinctual to make attempts to raise his intimacy.

-Sword of Light that Splits Everything has been completed.

The highly acclaimed sculptor Weed has proven that he is also a genius with the sword.

Radiant Sword.

His swordplay is enough to travel the continent and kill wicked people.

-Fame has increased by 850.

-Your level has risen.

-Strength has increased by 6.

-Agility has increased by 5.

-You have overcome the harsh storm and succeeded in your sword training.

All stats have increased by 3.

The eyes of the old man in Rhodium changed. At first Weed was just a general user but now he was treated as a genius sculptor.

“You have done a lot. How fantastic. With this degree, it won’t be impossible for you to express a radiant beauty. Then the other sculpture.....”

“I’m still in the process of making it.”

“I’ll believe in you and wait. If you finish this successfully then I can entrust you with an important task. Please continue to work hard on sculpting.”

“Of course.”

Weed often made sculptures so he was confident about his skill. He didn’t find training in a storm that difficult. Forget strength and fatigue. The wellspring of his imagination was money!



Weed returned to the north with Yellowy to make his nature sculpture.

“I don’t have to think too big. All I need to think about is including the sky, earth and flowers.”

He made clouds out of river water for his nature sculpture. It was time consuming but it was nothing compared to the first one he made. But it was a large piece of land so making the sculpture wasn’t easy.

“It is lacking in several parts...it can’t be a true nature sculpture without excessive intervention.”

Nature is more beautiful when left intact. The goal of the quest was to achieve natural beauty after time passed. Weed’s present sculpture needed to express beauty even after a long time passed so that made it more

difficult.

“A natural beauty needs to be vibrant.”

A rich source of health. And a wonderful landscape that can ease all the worries in a person's heart.

“This place...”

Weed clearly decided on the subject of the nature sculpture. The form of a sun setting or an aurora was naturally beautiful. He had some unforgettable memories at twilight. But there was a part missing when trying to feel the vitality of nature.

“There is a scene that I want to see at least once.”

He didn't need to imagine it as a sculptor. It was a profession that could express anything he visualized in his mind! ‘A large number of sculptor's skills were meant for this purpose.’

“Nature....”

Weed decided not to think like a human. He decided to use his previous experience as a hummingbird, a wandering wolf or a jumping kangaroo as examples.

Sculpture Transformation allowed him to change his body and look at the world from the viewpoint of that species. Humans tried to change everything to suit their own comfort but animals adapted to live in nature.

“If I live here...”

A swamp from the point of view of a salamander. A large river crossed here but the flow of water was really quick and the river area high. There wasn't likely to be many floods so it wasn't an appropriate place for farming from a human's point of view. Now only large weeds grew and animals didn't come to this wide land.

“I should create a wet and damp swamp where the shallow part of the river crosses the ground.”

Weed rushed into his work.

“Great Disaster Nature Sculpting!”

He used a natural disaster.

Kugugugugung!

The sinking land could be used to pull down a city or granary. It was an immensely large disaster that could destroy the ground.

“Kuhuhuk, my precious land.”

It was painful work even if Weed was just watching. A crack occurred and the shallow river flowed into it, causing a pond to be built. If this was the only big change then the once peaceful and beautiful landscape looked ruined.

“Time will resolve this. Broken nature will heal over time. As I progress, there will be many variables so I have to manage every detail.”

There was no choice but to rely on his senses. In the meantime Weed had travelled to many places and seen different types of animals.

“If there is a swamp then many animals and plants can live there. A reed field will naturally form...and it would be nice to have a thick forest.”

Weed made Yellowy plough the land while he scattered seeds and fruit. But unlike the past, he gave Yellowy specially cooked food and also stroked his head. There was a reason for his particularly affectionate behaviour.

“Umoooo. Isn’t this the seed of the man-eating vines from the forest of the elves, Master?”

“I don’t know. I somehow got it. Just plant it for the time being.”

“The elves said it will grow to more than 70 meters in height...umoooo.”

“Just pour it on the ground!”

Strong, rooted trees would grow up well.

“The animals living here, the rain and wind will do the rest.”

Weed worked in a wide area but there was still a lot of land remaining. If he composed it well then it could turn into a great agricultural area for

Morata. Currently farmers couldn't enter here due to the roaming monsters. He couldn't help sighing impatiently while creating the swamp and forest.

“What else could I make from this?”

This time it was from the view of a land owner!

“I really shouldn't have...”

Icecap, forests, sandy deserts and flowing glaciers. They were tolerable places for people. But their presence meant it was impossible for people to live there and the land value would never rise.

“It is a problem yet I am still purposefully creating the sculpture.”

It didn't fit in with the surrounding environment. A swamp couldn't be placed next to a desert or a snowy area. Nature had to exist in harmony with its surroundings.

“If this wasn't such an extreme case...there isn't one land owner that would like it.”

Once the land subsidence was accomplished, he placed rocks to direct the flow of the water.

“Dirtman!”

“You called.”

Dirtman emerged from the ground.

The elemental didn't have full strength with Weed gave birth to it so it was like an immature son. But Weed often summoned it to reinforce his ability. Dirtman could use magic related to the earth and its movements became faster as it matured. The curved back gradually straightened but its old appearance didn't change.

“Place the stones here.”

“Tell me the size and number that you want.”

“Bigger would be better. Approximately 30,000 of them? And the colour should be red or brown.”

Weed was its master so the elemental calmly did its job.

“Understood, Master.”

The strong point about an elemental was its obedience. The summoned Dirtman could do the work of 60 people. Stones buried deep under the ground or were far away was pulled over with magic.

Of course, Dirtman had to borrow his mana to work the earth. Weed’s mana flowed out like the tide. Eventually Dirtman borrowed less mana from Weed.

Rocks were rising from the centre of the future swamp.

“Is this size sufficient?”

Weed’s heart didn’t admire the rocks moved by Dirtman. When considering the size of this area, it was pebble sized at best. He needed to make a landscape that would be admired!

“No. Much larger. The rocks should come from the mountains. Is that possible?”

“It isn’t possible to bring those big rocks with my ability.”

“I guess so.”

Placing the rocks consumed an enormous amount of mana.

“But rocks can be made of sand.”

“I’ll bring it immediately.”

Red sandstone mainly formed in a desert area! Dirtman worked tirelessly to form red sandstones in this area. Meanwhile Weed carved his sculpture.

“I should end this properly. Nature Sculpting!”

Only shallow water was running into the planned swamp site. He used Nature Sculpting to make fog from water and clogged water channels.

“It won’t be possible to farm here again.”

The fog gradually spread due to the effect of Nature Sculpting!

“Ummoooooo.”

Yellowy quivered his tail and cried out.

“This seems insufficient...”

Weed wasn't satisfied with the sculpture. But the terrain of this place was completely changed so he had to leave the rest to time.

“The basic part is to call over the fairies. It needs to be something good.”

Cooking something with honey was necessary to lure out the fairies for the quest. Honey ribs and honey pork belly! People eating it thought it was a strange taste but meat and honey was the perfect complement for fairies.

“This bottle was worth every penny.”

Weed added honey to matured whiskey. The so-called honey distilled spirits!

The fairies wouldn't show up in front of a wicked person. It was difficult to find them. But once they liked someone, they would sometimes come out to play tricks.

-Sniff sniff, what is that smell?

One fairy was already sitting down on Weed's shoulder. A fairy sleeping in his hair emerged while sniffing. The fairy was smaller than a fly. Usually fairies were small but there were also large ones the size of a finger. Although they were small, they had the best sense of smell and clear, transparent wings.

-Sniff, for me?

”And your friends.”

-I want to eat it alone.

“I won't give it.”

-I'll bring them!

“As many as possible.”

The fairy opened a spatial tear and disappeared before returning 10 seconds later. Its friends were dragged along.

-What is this enchanting smell?

-Something that we can eat.

The fairies attached themselves to the food that Weed prepared. The fairies ate luxury dishes made with advanced cooking skills.

-Any fish? I like fish.

This was also a restaurant where the fairies could set orders. Weed made a sardine stir fry with honey spread on it.

-Wah, fish that lives in the sea.

-So sweet.

The fairies quickly ate 1 sardine each. Once their stomachs were full, the fairies showed interest in their surroundings.

-Where are we?

-It is completely different from when I came here last time.

-It changed strangely.

-Is this a place where we can play?

-How complex and exciting!

The fairies swam in the water and played tag among the sandstones.

-This has become the Fairies' Playground.

The natural power of the fairies are maximized.

The terrain is changing.

Chapter 2: Wet Land

The wind was blowing everywhere. The river shook and flooded. Water overflowed and made the ground even wetter.

Shwaaaaah!

Showers of rain fell from the clouds.

“Now I’ve called them so I just need to wait and see what changes.”

Weed waited with Yellowy as rain fell. In Royal Road it was very refreshing and fun to run around in the pouring rain. It was common to see hunting parties move soaking wet from the rain.

Taverns and restaurants were crowded on rainy days but there were still beginners hunting in the vicinity of the gates. The rain falling on people engaged in business at the market or conversing around the fountain gave the city a romantic aura.

-How fascinating, fascinating.

- Shall we stop and go back?

-No, let’s continue to play here. There is also delicious food.

Various species of plants and grass grew and spread through the swamp as the fairies played. The trees absorbed a lot of moisture through their roots and shot upwards. The shade of many trees caused lengthy shadows to stretch out.

The spirits played on the dry land while water creatures swam calmly. Reed fields forms and unknown flowers bloomed. Leaves on lush, overgrown trees turned red and fell to the ground. And snowflakes began falling from the sky.

“Winter has already come here.”

By the time the snow finished falling, sprouts started to rise from the land. Once again the hot sun shone, leaves fell and it snowed. The sun, rain, snow and leaves turned into a scrambled mess! Strange things like this often occurred around the fairies.

A long time was required for a swamp to form naturally but this period was reduced due to the fairies' magic. There were at least 200 changing of the seasons. It quickly became impossible to fathom how many lives the plants in the swamp had lived.

“Ummoooooo.”

A swamp deep enough to reach Weed and Yellowy's waist then they were standing on the rocks was formed. The appearance of the flowers blooming in the swamp was beautiful.

“The vitality of nature is showing so this seems to be a fairly decent work.”

The wide land had changed into a swamp but it wasn't that bad after seeing the animals and plants living there. Numerous small life forms that he didn't know the name of sat on leaves and swam in the water. A small water channel ran through the swamp that had fish skipping in it.

Birds cried out in the clear sky over the swamp. The surrounding birds flocked as the swamp was formed. The land in the whole vicinity shook. The rocks mobilized by Dirtman quickly formed layers of sandstone. The sandstone layers spread in all directions and completely changed the terrain of this place.

Hills formed the boundaries of the swamp. Weed marked a place where he would grow grapes later. The sandstone mountain area around the river and swamp didn't stop there. Water flowed from the sandstone mountains and flowers and grass grew. The water fell from a high place and created a pool of water.

“This has become a completely useless piece of land.”

Weed thought it was a waste despite the land not belonging to the Arpen Kingdom. The sandstone gave an view that was like art but the problem was that he couldn't collect taxes from it.

The changes caused by the fairies continued. Animals like crocodiles, aquatic insects and birds roamed. Beautiful yellow butterflies flew around the flowers blooming in the swamp. Wind blew through the leaves and

birds and animals cried out. The music of nature flowed through this land.

-Please set the name of the new sculpture.

“This is....Land filled with Despair, Lamentation and Regret.”

-Land filled with Despair, Lamentation and Regret is correct?

This name seemed too transparent.

‘A little....something simple and not so poetic should be fine.’

He decided to change the name of the nature sculpture.

“No. I’ve already committed so there is no choice. The name will be Wet Land.”

-Wet Land is correct?

“That’s right.”

Ddiring!

-Nature’s Magnum Opus!

Wet Land has been completed. A work where the sculptor took a century to form the nature sculpting!

A swamp filled with life. A sandstone area has been carved.

The sculptor knows how to use the power of nature to grow difficult and unusual trees from the fairies and the elves. The number of animal and plant species living here is at the scale of a continent.

This is a precious gift that the sculptor has returned to nature.

Artistic Value: 8,142

Special Options: Wet Land has given birth to new species of plants and animals.

Those who visit here will have their health and mana increased by 50% for one week.

All stats increased by 19.

Resistance to infectious diseases and poison has permanently increased

by 1%.

The growth rate of animals in the surrounding area has been sped up.

All nature in the surrounding area will be purified.

Current number of Nature Magnum Opus created: 1

-The skill proficiency of Sculpting has improved.

-The skill proficiency of Handicraft has improved.

-Fame has increased by 4,093.

-Art stat has increased by 19.

-Wisdom has increased by 7.

-Intelligence has increased by 9.

-Courage has increased by 3.

-Affinity to Nature has increased by 49.

-All stats will gain an additional 3 points for making a Magnum Opus sculpture.

-Elves and Fairies will become friendlier.

He could feel the joy of being a sculptor every time a Magnum Opus was created. Weed had stacked up a lot of stats but the 1~2 points he got for every sculpture made a difference in battle.

“A sculpture offered to the land...”

Nevertheless, Weed felt regret about the loss of money.



“I created a sculpture in the north with the help of the fairies.”

“It was a success. Nothing seems impossible for a sculptor like you.”

“Miracles can be created with the hands of a sculptor. I only thought about art when creating a natural ecosystem.”

Weed reported the quest in Rhodium.

Ddiring!

-Sculpting that has been Shaped over a Long Time has been completed.

The great sculptor Weed has revealed his genius in many areas. His works serve to defend justice and sometimes even represents an area.

-Fame has increased by 1,600.

-The skill proficiency of Sculpting has improved.

-Your evaluation in the Sculptor's Guild has improved.

"Huhu."

Weed had a light smile on his face.

'If I continue succeeding like this then I will obtain the final sculpting technique and a large sum of money. One day I will stop counting every bit of money that comes in and will be able to spend it...'

"Uweeeek."

He couldn't repress a rotten smile at the thought. The old man smiled brightly.

"If you have this degree of proficiency then I can talk about it. All the requests up to now was to test your qualifications. How well do you know the history of the Versailles Continent?"

"A little....I know."

"Numerous adventurers have attempted to clear the continent's 8th labyrinth..."

"Are you talking about the crazy Roderick's Labyrinth where demons live?"

"You know what I'm talking about. As expected from a genius sculptor, you know about the history of the continent."

Weed had no choice but to be aware of it.

'The continent's 8th labyrinth. A place I absolutely can't go to.'

It was a completely dangerous place. The 8th labyrinth had been famous since the early days of Royal Road.

-Entering means death.

-Instantly.

-Maximum 1 minute.

All residents and people passing by the 8th labyrinth would shake their heads. The requests related to it didn't turn out well.

"My son entered Roderick's Labyrinth...my son was a Royal Knight of the Norton Kingdom. I haven't seen him after that day."

The user asked.

"Do you want me to find your son?"

"Hyu, what? My son's life ended there. Well, I just gave up."

The residents were resigned about anything related to the 8th labyrinth. However the users couldn't help their curiosity.

"I'll go. A party of this standard isn't common on the continent."

When not much time had passed since Royal Road opened, a famous party of level 200 users entered Roderick's Labyrinth. They had already cleared other dangerous and high level dungeons. But they couldn't help feeling greed at getting their names know for this challenging and highly difficult adventure. Each user had a certain amount of ability and was filled with confidence.

And the result was extermination!

-Failed. We all died in the vicinity of the 1st underground floor.

The standard of users continued to rise as time passed and parties kept on challenging it. Level 300 and even level 400 parties died. The scary thing was that once they entered the labyrinth, it wasn't easy to get out alive.

Not only did the 8th labyrinth have an large number of traps, the monsters in Roderick's Labyrinth were abnormally high levelled. Furthermore, last time Roderick's Guild had been challenged by a mid-sized guild called Morningstar.

A staggering 600 people entered and were all killed! The Morningstar guild failed the challenge, had internal conflicts and lost the city they ruled.

“Roderick’s Labyrinth seems to be too difficult for me.”

“No. So far you’ve accomplished all your task perfectly so I believe in you.”

-It isn’t possible to postpone or give up requests related to radiant beauty in the middle. Continue.

“The magician Roderick was an unusual person. He had the hobby of collecting different types of things and also really liked art.”

Weed thought it was too unreasonable but he still listened intently to the valuable information about Roderick’s Labyrinth.

“Roderick was a very strong magician and had a lot of curiosity. He was a genius who developed new spells and combined various types of magic. He was also interested in the sculptor’s research on how to express radiant beauty.”

The old gave a long explanation.

Roderick drank alcohol with sculptors and listened to their worries. There was significant progress on the research to express radiant beauty. Of course, the contents of that information was secret and only known to the participants and Roderick.

“The sculptors studied out to express radiant beauty for a long time. Now there isn’t anybody left who knows the results of that study. Roderick was full of curiosity and lost control of something he summoned...it was very unfortunate.”

Originally Weed was very similar. He became arrogant and proud and walked the path to ruin.

‘I made the worst choice when buying the 200 won more expensive salt.’

The old gave took a deep sigh.

“He summoned a devil to study its power but a fight spread.”

“D-devil...”

“Roderick who studied magic realized he couldn’t win and closed off the dungeon to the outside. People could enter but it isn’t possible for them to leave...”

A video was shown in front of Weed.



An old magician and devil fighting.

A terrible magic exploded from the staff every time the magician chanted a spell. The devil was frozen and burned with hellfire. Its body had a long tail and black devil wings. Despite being attacked by terrible high ranking magic, it didn’t receive any large wounds.

The magician Roderick had a lot of human knights guarding him. A battle occurred and they greeted death as devil children were summoned. The odds gradually tilted until Roderick activated defence magic installed beforehand.

“With the force of the great mana gathered here, rearrange this distorted space. Make this devil unable to forever enter the human world or go back to hell.”

“It can’t be. Kueeeek!”

Roderick lost his life to the devil.

And the space in the dungeon distorted due to his spell. If someone walked down a straight path then they would go to the wrong place. Countless number of side roads would appear and some would suddenly go down to the 2nd floor.

No one could find a door that led out of the dungeon. Once inside the labyrinth, it wasn’t possible to find a way out and people would die from the demons or traps. From that day onwards, anyone who entered the labyrinth wouldn’t be able to find the way out.

Roderick’s Labyrinth was made with unique magic, making it huge and flashy. Roderick had originally built it underneath a ruined royal palace.



Weed remembered the broadcast he watched of the Morningstar Guild fighting in the labyrinth.

‘The video of them fighting with the demons was beautiful. The ratings were also quite high.’

To be exact, it showed the Morningstar Guild dying against a cool backdrop. Furthermore, there was Roderick’s welcome! The labyrinth was full of all sorts of monsters and challenges.

The reason for their presence was to reduce health. And there was a huge problem even when they disappeared after being killed.

‘They don’t drop any items....it really is the worst type of monster.’

The mutated monsters that Roderick studied were also freed and they had special magic to protect themselves.

It was a wide and endless labyrinth of despair and death! He got that feeling just from watching the video of Roderick’s Labyrinth. Even if someone managed to conquer the labyrinth, the biggest problem was coming outside.

If Weed died then his skill proficiency would fall and he would fail the final secret technique quest. If he brought the sculptural lifeforms then it would mean complete death.

He could revive them again but it was the end if he couldn’t get out. Weed’s sculptural lifeforms could be permanently lost.



Weed frowned.

“Is it necessary to study Roderick’s research records in order to express radiant beauty?”

“Understand this. You have to look at the records in order to know what the sculptors have pursued. And keep this in mind. You shouldn’t leave it too late. If someone else finds the research records first then there is a possibility they could escape the labyrinth with it.”

Ddirring!

-Roderick's Labyrinth

The lower devil Montus and his subordinates have been trapped in the labyrinth. They are eager to exit into the world and it is inevitable to encounter them if you enter the labyrinth.

Reading Roderick's research records will lead to the next quest.

Level of Difficulty: Final Secret Sculpting Technique Quest

Quest Restrictions: The quest will fail if you die.

Be the first to conquer Roderick's Labyrinth.

"Although I wish to achieve the sculptors' desires...."

Before Weed could finish talking...

"It will be dangerous but please come back safely.

-The quest has been given.

"...."

The quest was forcibly given to him! Weed was full of thoughts as he went out to the streets of Rhodium.

'I had expected that this request would be difficult to some degree.'

He had travelled a great distance and trained Radiant Sword for the final secret sculpting technique.

'It was all to make me stronger.'

So far the quests hadn't been that bad. Even though the quest to cause disasters was risky, there was still a high chance of survival. Furthermore, he could select and prepare the type of disaster.

Travelling as a hummingbird just required sightseeing while the Radiant Sword quest could be overcome with effort. There was a fixed date but Weed had raised Radiant Sword to the required level with one week left.

He had persisted so much that he even reduced the number of times he went to the toilet in a day. Working hard was Weed's speciality but

Roderick's Labyrinth quest was too risky.

'This time there is a really high chance that I will fail and lose everything.'

Weed's chest was tight with tension. In recent times, he hadn't completed a really difficult quest. The Class Master Quest was for sculptors so he could just go with the flow.

'I expected that I would be successful before I started most of them. And even if I failed, I would've been able to try again.'

Weed had become a legend from his time in Continent of Magic. It was because he achieved miracle like adventures that seemed impossible. However, the difficult of this final secret sculpting technique quest was ridiculously high. Weed's thoughts went in various directions before he nodded.

"If I don't prepare properly then I really will fail this quest. I also can't postpone it too long."

For the moment, other users hadn't been able to conquer Roderick's Labyrinth. The labyrinth was known as a deadly place so many adventurers were willing to go there. But if someone cleared Roderick's Labyrinth then the final secret sculpting technique quest would disappear.

"Obtain the last secret technique before the devil Montus runs away and the Central Continent war reaches the north."

The work he had to do in the future was boundless. He might feel more at ease if he managed to get the final secret technique. Either despair or pleasure would be at the end of the tunnel. It was true that you reap what you sow in life, but effort also played a large role.

"Indeed, I'm not the son of a rich family."

Weed headed towards the Freya Church in Somren Liberty City. He needed to bring the maximum number of troops into the labyrinth.

"If our contribution increases a bit more then we can invite a paladin."

"Then it will be possible to go to the thief's lair?"

“Of course. That’s why we’ve been doing quests involved with the Freya Church. We can obtain the necessary equipment from hunting.”

The headquarters of the Freya Church in Somren Liberty City was crowded with players. This place hadn’t received much damage from the war in the Britten Alliance Kingdom.

“Please guide me to the High Priest.”

“You have come a long way. I’ll guide you immediately.”

The guards and priests protected the entrance recognized Weed. And they immediately showed him to the High Priest.

Chapter 3: Gathering of Paladins

“Oh, it is the benefactor of the Freya Church!”

“I came to meet High Priest-nim.”

Weed didn't talk with arrogance despite his status as King of the Arpen Kingdom. There was a time when he would've bowed but now he didn't need to lower himself.

“The Freya Church is waging a fierce war with the Embinyu Church everywhere. It is thanks to the Helain's Cup and Crown of Prosperity you gave us that we could push back the Embinyu Church.”

Every religious society on the continent was fighting against the Embinyu Church. The existences of the kingdoms were at stake so paladins would often show up to save residents of the villages. The relics recovered by the Freya Church and the Church of Lugh played a large role in the war against the Embinyu Church.

Weed knew there was a time to be modest and a time to boast.

“That's right. It is all thanks to me. But would it be possible for me to accomplish such a thing if High Priest-nim wasn't guiding me?”

“All believers of the Freya Church has praised your adventures and they feel comfortable since you are committed to defeating evil. I've also heard a lot of talk from residents who live in the north.”

“I'm also pleased that the followers of the Freya Church is increasing in the Arpen Kingdom.”

“The construction of the Cathedral in the north is indeed a wonderful thing.”

“I'm happy to be working for the Freya Church.”

Weed felt a bit of regret every time he remembered the construction costs.

“Let's slowly talk while drinking tea. I'd like to hear about your many adventures.”

His degree of intimacy and fame was high so he could talk easily with the High Priest. He could obtain information from the Freya Church and even eat here for free. However Weed didn't have time for that.

"I have an important mission that urgently requires the Freya Church's aid."

"What is it?"

"I'm hoping you can send me strong paladins and priests blessed by the god. I think I can overcome any type of adversity if they fight with me."

The High Priest nodded at Weed's request.

"The Freya Church is willing to offer our swords and prays. Many people are currently fighting against the Embinyu Church so we can't withdraw that many troops but how much do you need?"

"I hope that you can mobilize all that you can."

Weed wanted to pull out the pillars of the Freya Church.

"It is possible with your achievements. But like I said, we're fighting against the Embinyu Church right now...it is possible to dispatch 240 paladins and 120 priests from here and the North Cathedral."

"They will be a great help when trying to do the right thing."

"But you might incur Freya's wrath if they all lost their lives."

"I'll keep this in mind. I will protect them like they are my body."

It wasn't possible to take everything from the Freya Church like he had thought. The war with the Embinyu Church was damaging Weed. Nevertheless, the paladins were in the mid-300s.

In the past, they had been much weaker but gained experience from fighting the vampires. The priests were slightly lower and had an average level of 310. He wanted to use his contribution to take all the paladins and priests. It was possible to go hunting without paladins but priests were essential in difficult dungeons.

"I struggled to find their holy relics while suffering like a slave and I also

built a Cathedral for them...’

Weed asked again.

“You can’t send me more troops?”

“This is your request so the paladins and priests guarding this place can be included. I can send 40 more paladins and 135 apprentice priest.

An apprentice priest had an average level of 200. The role of a priest was very helpful in battle but they also required protection. If a priest lost their lives then his relationship with the related religion would decrease.

‘I have to leave a root. Anyway, there is no guarantee that the quest will succeed...’

“I am thankful for the paladins. I’ll struggle fiercely from now on...no, I will defend the continent’s peace with them. However the apprentice priests aren’t required.”

“I’m sorry that we can’t support you more due to the battle with the Embinyu Church.”

“No. This much power is great.”

It was possible to gather this many paladins and priests because he was Weed. Not many paladins were available due to the war with the Embinyu Church.

‘If the quest in Roderick’s Labyrinth fails and everyone dies then my friendship with the Freya Church will end.’

Weed gave a deep sigh as he recruited paladins and priests from the Freya Church. The dignified paladins had the crest of the Freya Church on their chest. And the beautiful priests and priestesses.

There was a chance they might all be harmed. Weed also recruited the priest Alveron who had adventured with him before.

“I don’t know what the trouble is but anything Weed-nim does is absolutely necessary for the peace of the continent and the Freya Church.”

“.....”

Alveron believed in him despite Weed going to the labyrinth for his own personal reasons.

“I’m thankful that we can travel together again.”

Weed patted Alveron’s shoulder in thanks while thinking.

‘I can’t allow the things I raised to die like this.’

This was a harsh world and people who behaved recklessly would die. Weed went to the Church of Lugh to borrow some troops.

“The knights of Lugh are meant to stop darkness from spreading...”

The Church of Lugh decided to dispatch 400 paladins! His contribution was lower compared to the Freya Church but he used it to request paladins instead of priests. The special point was Lugh’s Sword that had been thrust into Barkhan’s chest.

After Weed returned the sword, an expedition headed towards Argoldia and restored its power. The owner of the sword was the paladin Derian. He was considered the best paladin in the Church of Lugh and decided to go along with Weed while carrying the sword.

“I’ve heard rumours about how Weed-nim fought against the Embinyu Church. I will comply with Lugh’s will as a loyal knight. The fight against the Embinyu Church is important but I think that helping Weed-nim is no less significant.”

Weed wasn’t exactly pleased about it. The scale had suddenly become larger!



“Whew, the leaves are already falling.”

Lee Hyun came out to the yard to clean up. He had an old habit of carefully cleaning his house. His level was at the standard where he wouldn’t easily die in Royal Road so he exited the capsule to clean his house. Weed’s cheapest hobby was cleaning, washing the dishes and doing the laundry.

“It is more quiet than usual.”

Lee Hyun came out to organize the things in his yard and sweep up the fallen leaves. He felt somewhat lonely while doing that. It wasn't time for his sister to come back to school yet.

“Perhaps this quiet...no! The dog is gone.”

The charming Dogmeat who would lie flat on the ground and shake its tail was missing.

“No. I still have a lot of fermented soybean paste remaining at home.”

In fact, he ate the ducks and chickens but was reluctant to catch the dog. Catching a dog for its meat was barbaric and cruel.

“The Animal Protection Association might come with complaints.”

The fear of a fine! Moreover, he barely had Dogmeat for 6 months so it wasn't fully grown. The Dogmeat he gave to Seo-yoon a while ago would be worth 20,000 won at a market. That Dogmeat was 2 years old!

The 1 year old Dogmeat was a wandering dog that Lee Hyun had caught. He raised it from a puppy so Dogmeat followed him obediently.

“I need to find it quickly...”

Lee Hyun went to search for the 20,000 won that went missing. He didn't find Dogmeat inside the house.

“The gate is definitely locked...I wouldn't have been so careless if I knew this would happen.”

Lee Hyun decided to go Seo-yoon's house just in case. Both houses had a low wooden fence so they could comfortably associate with each other.

“This house is good. There is that feeling of stepping on turf.”

Having a lawn was a symbol of wealth in South Korea! There were fruit trees in the garden and ducks swimming in a pond.

Quack quack!

The weather was hot so there was no signs of the ducks leaving the water at all. Lee Hyun found Dogmeat near the shore of the lake. Seo-yoon was giving Dogmeat a bath with the hose to water the garden.

“Your white fur, you have to wash it beautifully. Do you like the bath?”

Seo-yoon wore short sleeves and shorts to wash the dog in the sunshine. Every time Dogmeat shook its body, water would hit her but she was still beautiful. Looking at Seo-yoon felt like a pleasant dream. It was because her beauty was so unrealistic.

‘Dogmeat follows her more than me.’

Seo-yoon was playing host to all the animals in his house. She fed them, played with them and even let them sleep at her house. Even the rabbits would hop towards Seo-yoon’s house when they were untied and would eat the grass there.

Growl!

The 1 year old Dogmeat growled as it saw Lee Hyun. He had quietly entered the boundary of Seo-yoon’s house.

Lee Hyun thought it was strange.

“You dare treat your master who feeds you fermented soybean paste like this...sit down.”

The 1 year old Dogmeat planted its butt on the ground.

“Lie down.”

Balladang!

“Breathe.”

Pant pant pant pant!

Lee Hyun had trained obedience deep into his head! Seo-yoon dried the dog’s body with a towel.

“It was eager to have a bath.”

“The rain could easily settle that....”

Lee Hyun didn’t nag anymore.

“Are the dogs getting along with each other?”

“They are playing every day.”

The 1 year old Dogmeat was a female and the 2 year old was a male. They weren't related so he encouraged them to spend time together. In the future there might be puppies.

“Hrmm, steaming a puppy soup with cooked vegetables...”

“Huh?”

“Yes? It is nothing.”

Lee Hyun sat down on a chair and watched the pair of Dogmeats having a bath. This felt like a happy and peaceful dream right now.

‘In fact, I’ve actually accomplished a lot.’

He had become a celebrity in Royal Road so he could live on the generous proceeds of the broadcasts. His heart cried out for money, money, money every day but his poor life was over.

‘Grandmother is in a nursing home and no longer requires a lot of money while there is already a separate savings for my sister’s tuition cost.’

He had saved a lot from selling items and the broadcast fees so he had a colossal amount of wealth. It was to the extent that he already collected the money for Lee Hye-yeon’s wedding and funeral costs. In the past he had experienced a lot of grief because he didn’t have money but now his heart could relax.

‘In the worst case scenario, if Arpen Kingdom is destroyed by the Hermes Guild then at least I still have money for my family.’

Lee Hyun could sell quilts at the market or even open a fried chicken store. A few years ago, his dream was to spend his life toasting bread and frying chicken. Of course, there would be drunken guests order fried chicken legs and wings but he wouldn’t deny them!

‘I like a challenge. There is still plenty for me to do.’

Lee Hyun’s heart was peaceful. Royal Road was his job but it was also a place where he could sail in fair winds and relax. Despite how much more difficult this was, Weed was the God of War and he would jump into any dangerous situation without hesitation. He had a history of conquering

every danger he faced. He would keep on accomplishing things as he lived on.

‘Don’t worry about it. I can build up my achievements with the Freya and Lugh Churches using my fame and sculpting. The burden that I have to carry is different.’

He couldn’t be afraid of failure. The future wasn’t determined so he didn’t need to feel anxious. Lee Hyun would focus more intensely in a disadvantageous situation and would find a countermeasure. He had the confidence to adventure in places others wouldn’t go and succeed. He would shake off his heavy burden and display his ability.

‘I really wanted that. That exhilarating moment...the last secret sculpting technique quest will give me that.’

A sound then came from his stomach.

Ggoruruk.

“Um. As expected, I shouldn’t think too deeply. It is my destiny to live with difficulty.”

“Huh?”

“Are you hungry?”

“A little. What are you doing?”

“Seafood kalguksu (TL: Korean noodle dish). Today I am cooking it.”

Right now he was on a leave of absence but he had eaten her boxed lunches every day at school. Now he wanted to repay the favour by cooking.

While Lee Hyun was kneading the dough for the noodles, Seo-yoon was making kimchi pancake. The clean Dogmeats were leisurely running around outside.



Weed entered a shabby tavern in a back alley of Morata.

“Kkeok, take it.”

“The alcohol tastes good today. Two more glasses of beer over here!”

Drinkers camped here even during the daytime. The drinks were cheap so it had a lot of customers despite being located in the back alleys. Half of them were users while the NPCs occupied the remaining seats.

Morata was in the process of becoming a great city so many people flocked here. Hunters, mercenaries and warriors spent time at the tavern when they weren't hunting.

‘He should be here at this hour...’

Weed looked around the tables and saw a grey haired man with empty glasses stacked in front of him.

‘There.’

Weed walked up and sat in another chair.

“I have a request.”

“A request?”

The old man asked with a red nose. The most famous NPC thief in the north, Jeidun! He had retired after becoming old but he still told thieves and assassins who visited him tricks to dismantle traps.

Weed had cleared many dungeons in the meantime. There were many monsters and traps in the dungeons. Normally he would just endure the traps with his body or use Van Hawk to lead the way.

The Roderick's Labyrinth he was going to this time wasn't that easy. It was to the extent that any traps activated would lead to death. He wouldn't be safe even if the traps were dismantled.

The weakest demons wandering around were level 400 and some even reached a staggering level 500. And he estimated that the boss Montus would be at least level 600! Weed came to visit Jeidun so that at least the traps would be dismantled.

“I want to form a contract with you to accompany me and get rid of some traps.”

“A mercenary contract...it has been a long time since I did field work.”

Normally mercenaries would be hired from mercenary guilds but it was possible to employ a NPC directly. Of course, he would need to pay less if there was a high degree of intimacy.

“Well, you came all this way so I will agree if you give me 5,000 gold a day.”

-Do you want to make a mercenary agreement with Jeidun?

5,000 gold should be paid a day and you need to provide the salary for 10 days in advance.

Jeidun was a master at dismantling traps and lock picking so his employment cost was very high. However 5,000 gold per day was too excessive. But Jeidun possessed the most excellent trap removing skills in the north. He wanted to hire the best thieves in the Central Continent but the speed of his situation meant that he couldn't meet them.

Weed regretfully pulled out a bottle of alcohol.

“I'll give you this.”

“Ugh, this has a good fragrance...”

“I have more alcohol.”

“If you give alcohol every day then I will do it for 4,200 gold.”

“I'll make sure that you can drink alcohol for the rest of your life.”

“If that is so...then 3,900 gold is possible.”

It was still an impossible amount for employment.

“I want to tell you something Jeidun. This is for the peace of the north. As a thief, didn't you work your entire life for the sake of peace?”

“Your Majesty!”

Weed revealed his identity. All of the NPCs in the tavern kneeled down before Weed. It was a special privilege given to the King of the Arpen Kingdom!

“I will work for the sake of Your Majesty.”

“The employment cost will be 2 gold a day.”

“That is the value of beef jerky....”

“Would you like to be executed?”

“It is an honour to follow Your Majesty who is a hero of the north.”

He used the king’s authority to hire Jeidun. The side effect was that the residents’ loyalty would fall and the relationship with mercenaries could worsen. But he had so much fame he didn’t need to worry about that.

“Now that Jeidun is taking care of the traps, what sculptural lifeforms should I bring?”

The likelihood of not returning was too high. Bingryong, Phoenix etc. were too big so they couldn’t enter while he didn’t want to bring Goldman and Yellowy into such a dangerous place. Goldman was versatile and Yellowy had good physique and power but both fell behind in combat power.

“Bahamorg, this is an opportunity to fight and shatter some bones.”

“Anywhere is good.”

He decided to bring only Bahamorg. He possessed better fighting skills than Weed and could raise other people’s health and vitality. He was worth bringing into a dangerous dungeon.

“The staff organization for the labyrinth is over.”



“Can you buy me weapons and supplies necessary for survival?”

He requested a supply of goods from Mapan. Charcoal stones, herbs and antidotes were all supplies necessary for a labyrinth. He spend 70,000 gold purchasing supplies!

There were also spare armour and swords prepared. The Blacksmith skill meant he could make repairs but there were items that could break in battle.

“It has already exceeded 20 carriages. This is enough for a war...do you really need this much?”

Mapan whispered him a few times questioning the amount but Weed's answers were the same.

-Please save as much as possible by buying cheap and good quality goods.

In the end, Mapan moved with 22 carriages to the destination. The designated meeting place was a place just north of the Central Continent.

“Peace isn't secured here so I am anxious about such places...”

Mapan decided to hire mercenaries. The resurrected Embinyu Church led armies of demons to destroy cities. Humans scattered and lived in the mountains along with the monsters.

Bandits were seen everywhere and there was also surprise raids by monsters in broad daylight. A merchant transporting goods would want to avoid these areas as much as possible. It was to the extent that merchants travelling between the Central Continent and the north would utilize many methods other than a land trip.

“We've safely reached the destination!”

Mapan arrived at the place he agreed to meet Weed. Apart from Weed, there was a huge gathering of paladins and priests. This was the first time Mapan had seen so many paladins in one place.

They were standing on the hot plains and the sunlight glared off their armour. The priests were standing quietly but they would show their ability once a battle started.

“Thanks for the trouble. The goods?”

“I collected them and brought them. I checked the quantity and quality three times. By the way Weed-nim, why are there so many paladins here?”

“They are helping me with my quest.”

“Sculpting Master Quest?”

“That’s not it. It is a connected quest that is one step higher.”

Weed accepted the transfer of battle supplies and turned around. Mapan observed the armoured paladins and was surprised to see Alveron and Derian among them. They were NPCs famous even to users. Alveron was a priest of the Freya Church and Derian was a paladin and hero of the Church of Lugh.

Anyway, their fame could be compared to the leader of a prestigious guild!

Alveron also wore Fargo’s Crown of Prosperity that belonged to the Freya Church. Derian was also carrying Lugh’s Sword and had colourful support troops. Weed used his contributions from founding a kingdom and adventuring to mobilize the might power to two religious orders.

Weed yelled using Lion’s Roar.

“We have come to Roderick’s Labyrinth to protect the peace of the continent!”

“Waaaaaah!”

The priests and paladins raised their weapons and cried out.

“Heeok!”

The blood drained from Mapan’s face.

Roderick’s Labyrinth! The story had been popular among merchants but there was no outcome from it so they moved on. Merchants needed to have a firm grasp of the habitat and monsters in the area that might interfere with a trade. It was rare for a merchant to go hunting in a dungeon.

‘That is Roderick’s Labyrinth.’

It was located at a very old palace. The magician Roderick operated at the palace. And most magical studies were underground. The entrance to the labyrinth was the stairs heading underground.

‘But hasn’t no one come back alive from it?’

Weed finished his short speech. It was important to maintain the moral of the paladins but he only commissioned them for a short time so it wasn't needed.

“God will look after us no matter what difficulty we face. Let's go! Then Mapan-nim, I'll see you later in Morata.”

“Eh?”

Weed said farewell to Mapan and moved towards Roderick's Labyrinth. The stairs heading underground was grown over with lush bushes. Some stone stairs were broken and there was the corpses of bats all over the place.

The palace where Roderick lived gave an eerie feeling that caused chills! The atmosphere felt like the place had been cursed.

“It is like going to the bank in the summer.”

Weed didn't hesitate now that he had come here and headed down the stairs.

Chapter 4: Roderick's Labyrinth

“Kuu, delicious humans have come after a long time. It is possible to finally eat human meat.”

Common flying demons were waiting on the 1st floor of Roderick's Labyrinth. Weed had been prepared for battle from the moment he came down the stairs so he instantly used a skill.

“Radiant Sword!”

7 eagles flew out and hit the demon soldier's body!

-The demon henchman Tropiko's might defence means that only 240 damage is caused.

-The demon henchman Tropiko has been hit in the side. Health has decreased by 267.

-Your sword has hit the demon henchman Tropiko's wing.

Due to the special protection, health has only been reduced by 37.

The first demon soldier he met had incredible resilience.

“Only this degree...”

It was said that originally intermediate demons existed on the Versailles Continent. The demons were weakened under the influence of the gods and destroyed. That's why they looked for contractors and took over the body of warlocks. The demons exerted a powerful influence over the land if they were underground and were difficult to subdue.

‘I raised Radiant Sword to this degree and it didn't even make a scratch.’

The demon soldier wielded a thorn-studded whip.

“This much is ridiculous!”

Weed rolled and avoided the whip. The whip shot out and opened a deep gap in the ground. The demon wielded the whip quickly and the range was also wide so it was fairly difficult to avoid.

There was a sharp, scorpion like sting at the end of the whip and had

embedded monster teeth. It had a paralysing ability when hit directly.

-Collateral damage has been received.

Damage has been reduced due to your high perseverance.

Health has decreased by 532.

-A spirit has contaminated your body.

It can cause a disease.

Your body's ability to heal itself is reduced.

The whip attacked from a distance and shaved away at Weed's health and combat power.

"You can't continue to run away like a rat."

"We'll see soon."

"All humans are similar. They have no sense."

Weed didn't both talking about the distant future. The paladins from the Freya and Lugh Churches have finally descended the stairs.

"Evil that defies the will of the Gods!"

"Catch it!"

The brave paladins received the priests' blessings and jumped forward.

"The troublesome believers have come!"

Nevertheless, the momentum was still with the demon soldier. It wasn't possible to deal a blow to the demon with ordinary weapons. Holy power was a demon's natural enemy but it was level 500 so the soldier wouldn't die that easily. It alone could be a boss class monster!

Even the attacks from the paladins were weakened so the demon soldier received significantly reduced damage.

"Deny the god you believe in. Holy Corruption!"

The demon soldier used a magic to reduce the ability of the paladins. It didn't weaken the paladin's physical power but their holy magic. A paladin with weak faith would have lower skills and eventually there was a

risk of betrayal.

“Hand of Oppression!”

The demon brandished the whip in its right hand and grabbed the air with its left. And a paladin floated in the air like he was caught by a giant hand.

Kwadududuk.

The paladin’s shield and armour was crushed by a strong pressure!

“Dirty Soul Fragment!”

An explosion occurred in front of the demon soldier and spread all over the place. The wide area attack skill made it difficult for the paladins.

“This body has returned to the Goddess.”

“Kneeling due to evil...”

2 paladins from the Freya Church had already been killed. The paladins systematically fought in a formation but the magic and whip attack from the demon was very intense. Furthermore, it was difficult for them to even concentrate on attacking.

“I should’ve expected it to be like this from the beginning. Not many paladins and priests have entered yet. Van Hawk, Torido!”

Weed called his subordinates. He had wanted to avoid summoning a Death Knight and Vampire Lord if possible. If the paladins and priests saw them then their morale would weaken. They were worse enemies so an adverse effect would occur despite Weed’s high leadership. But defeating the demon right now was more pressing.

“Go fight!”

“Understood, Master.”

Van Hawk rushed to the front as soon as he appeared. The Death Knight had the same attribute as the enemy. And the demon was a strong monster but it couldn’t be compared to Barkhan. Van Hawk also grew as his battle experience accumulated.

“That is a demon soldier. Master...beautiful girls coming to a place like this.”

Torido mumbled and quickly headed to the side of the demon.

A vampire's battle style was to dazzle the enemy! The priests used this break to heal paladins injured or suffering under a curse. The many priests meant that the wounded soldiers could recover their combat ability quickly. If they didn't die then combat power could be restored.

The paladins holding their shields and swords continued coming down the stairs until eventually Alveron and Derian arrived. Bahamorg was the last one to enter Roderick's Labyrinth.

Weed's plan was to come in first to clear any demons at the entrance. Bahamorg was instructed to enter last in case Weed needed saving.

The priests' holy magic supported the paladin's pincer movement and the demon received a cruel blow. The whole place was filled with a holy power as the demon was wrapped in a holy light.

Torido and Van Hawk had played active role in reversing the situation. Now the situation didn't require them any longer. Weed wanted to raise his two subordinates but he had to give that up due to the priests and paladins entering the labyrinth.

He had to sacrifice something in order to pretend to be good.

“Humans. Disgusting humans have come here!”

The demon swung its whip despite suffering from the paladins and the priests' holy magic. But it couldn't last longer once Bahamorg joined and turned grey as its life was lost.

-The demon soldier Tropiko has been destroyed.

Fame has increased by 140 for all those who participated in the battle.

“We finally won.”

Ultimately 3 paladins were sacrificed. It was their first time dealing with a demon and they entered Roderick's Labyrinth via a narrow staircase so they received quite a bit of damage. It was far more advantageous to

gather the priests and paladins together and have them use long ranged holy magic.

But once they entered deeper into the labyrinth, at least 10 or 12 demon soldiers would appear at the same time. Even the Morningstar Guild couldn't last against 13 demons and were wiped out. And nobody had continued deeper so there was no telling what dangerous places there were.

"I knew there was going to be trouble...it can't be avoided."

Weed repaired the armour and sword of the paladins while they were resting. Having the Blacksmith skill in an expedition was essential to maintaining their power.

"Thank you very much. Your Majesty."

"It is a honour to have you sharpen my sword directly..."

"You have learned skills to punish the wicked and establish justice. I have to do everything I can since you are fighting the demons."

Weed was able to slightly raise his intimacy with the paladins. Of course, that would only come in handy if the paladins lived.

"Healing Hands."

"Freya's Barrier."

"Protection of Faith!"

Weed led the paladins and started carefully hunting in the labyrinth. It wasn't difficult to deal with the mutated monsters made by the magician Roderick.

"Bahamorg, lure them."

"Understood."

There were many powerful monsters with levels in the late 400s. Even if the personal power of the paladins and priests were weak, their combat power as a group was outstanding. Recovery magic was available so it was possible to do a quick first aid in a long battle.

There weren't any monsters that could threaten the group's lives but they were decent to hunt. The strengthening auras on the paladins also had a significant effect. The Freya Church had a bright purple aura while the Church of Lugh had a white aura. The paladins fought spectacularly while radiating an aura according to their faith.

“Kuwaaaab!”

-You have heard the cry of a fighting spirit.

Energy has awoken in a deep place in your body. Stats will be activated according to the body's latent potential.

Maximum health has increased.

Mana has greatly increased.

The damage to the enemy will become stronger with every successful attack.

When facing a stronger enemy in a frontal attack, fighting spirit will activate and resilience will improve.

There were many undisclosed places on the continent with high ranking monsters that wasn't possible to enter. But it wasn't unusual when this much power was gathered.

“2 people died this time.”

Every time a demon soldier emerged, Weed carefully commanded the paladins but those that showed even a little gap were sacrificed. The level difference between the demons and paladins was too serious.

His brain worked quickly as he tried to find a way to fight against the demons. The weak paladins who judged that they couldn't avoid death were determined to drag the enemies down with them into hell. Despite fighting defensively, 11 paladins had already died in the labyrinth.

“I need to make sure the paladins don't decrease...if I can't find a way to navigate the labyrinth then the damage will only worsen.”

The morale of the paladins had yet to fall. They had confidence in the hero who saved the continent and Weed also had high achievements with

the Freya and Lugh Churches.

But once they entered the labyrinth a little deeper, 5~6 demons would emerge. The labyrinth was complicated and difficult to grasp their location. Whenever Weed encountered a crossroad, he would unconditionally select the left path.

“I feel like I should go to the right...but that is unlucky so let’s go to the left.”

Monsters and demons kept on showing up. But there were many times when he returned to a place they had been. The entire labyrinth was filled with spatial distortions, spatial expansions and magic so it was difficult to find a path.

Weed didn’t know where the group was but they seemed to be circling around the labyrinth. As they reached the centre of the labyrinth, there were many crossroads and spatial distortions. They endlessly fought in Roderick’s Labyrinth as they ran out of food and were killed by the monsters and demons.



Yoo Byung-jin watched the monitor with satisfaction.

“It is really severe this time.”

The Versailles Continent was suffering from the wars between prestigious guilds. The Hermes Guild temporarily stopped their war but everyone knew it would resume again once preparations were finished. And that time was fast approaching.

In order to compete with the Hermes Guild, other guilds were attempting to occupy more territory. In the meantime, the Embinyu Church was also devastating the continent. Yoo Byung-jin enjoyed Weed’s adventure more than the war.

“If he doesn’t succeed then he’ll be wiped out. And the current probability of success is 0.2% at most.”

The artificial intelligence calculated the odds of Bahamorg, the paladins

and priests making it through Roderick's Labyrinth. Weed was the variable here. Weed's pure combat ability would slightly increase those odds to 0.23%.

“Final secret sculpting technique quest. It is very difficult and tricky.”

It was a quest that required all of a person's power. The mobilization of sculptural lifeforms was necessary and Weed should've even created more sculptural lifeforms. Even if he did this, the calculated probability of success was approximately 5%.

Yet Weed didn't many the sculptural lifeforms into Roderick's Labyrinth for some reason. Yoo Byung-jin thought this plan was reckless and stupid.

“No one has broken through Roderick's Labyrinth so the true degree of difficulty couldn't be determined. Sometimes there is no choice but to fail even when every effort is made...anyway, the final secret sculpting technique will die here. There have already been a few other profession related skills buried.”

There were secret techniques for knights, warriors and magicians. The quests for the secret techniques were so difficult that people would go hunting in order to become stronger. They became too caught up in increasing their level.

The quests for the secret techniques of other professions were delayed too long and faded away. There was a large number of secrets on the Versailles Continent but people also played a role.

“Tsk tsk, 3 paladins died this time.”

Yoo Byung-jin was watching a battle against 2 demons on the monitor and 3 paladins had already been killed.

Once the fight started, it was inevitable they would die against the demons' fierce aggressiveness. It was interesting for Yoo Byung-jin to watch Weed's forces gradually weaken but it became tedious.

“It should be fascination once half a dozen emerges at once. Many will die then.”

If Weed couldn't obtain the final secret sculpting technique then he wouldn't be able to resist the Hermes Guild and would disappear. Even if that happened, Yoo Byung-jin was still having fun. He wanted to see Weed struggle and fight until the end. It was interesting as Weed was driven into an increasingly more extreme situation. The number of enemies increased as they wandered through the Roderick Labyrinth. Even if they found the path, they were likely to be wiped out while wandering around.

It was a situation where there was a deficient of information on how to find the correct path through the labyrinth. It was close to impossible to reach the room where Roderick studied magic.

-Based on Weed's character and judgement, I've calculated his chances of success in this quest.

Yoo Byung-jin sipped his lemon tea and asked comfortably.

"How much is it this time?"

He calculated that the probability of success while commanding Bahamorg and the paladins was approximately 0.2%. This was after a comprehensive analysis of Weed's judgement, leadership and abilities demonstrated in every adventure so far.

-The probability of Weed suppressing Roderick's Labyrinth is 46.7%.

"What did you say? Isn't your calculation incorrect?"

-That is the average number that repeats after calculating it 316,820 times.

"Why is the success probability so high? It is impossible to find a path through the labyrinth.

-After a review of the existing data, Weed can find a way.

"The power of the paladins is too weak to conquer the labyrinth."

-They will be able to demonstrate more strength under Weed's leadership. The damage will be minimized and they will gradually expand more power.

"There are a lot of dangerous traps in Roderick's Labyrinth. Isn't it

possible that they will fall into a trap?”

-Whatever crisis Weed gets into, he will make an unpredictable choice.

Yoo Byung-jin's mood sharply fell.



“Ohh, demon henchmen!”

Bahamorg twisted a huge sword. Bahamorg was the only one who could fight against a demon soldier one on one. That wasn't even possible for Weed unless he used Sculpture Transformation or Sculptural Destruction. The demons could use many types of black magic and curses.

“You are just trash from hell and I will cut your body.”

Bahamorg's taunt skill!

“A barbarian like you...”

“I won't kill you smoothly. You will struggle in eternal torment.”

The angry demons brandished their whips towards Bahamorg. Once their magic and curses were concentrated on Bahamorg, they were easier to take care of. The priests showered Bahamorg with healing and blessings so there was no need to worry about the curses.

Bahamorg had a super hard body that deflected attacks and wore the best armour given by Emperor Geihar. He couldn't receive the concentrated attacks of 2~3 without worry.

Meanwhile the paladins and priests cast holy magic and used their swords as support.

“It can't be. The other humans...”

“Slaughter them. I have to kill more humans.”

The demons tried to provoke the paladins but Bahamorg persistently interfered.

“You think you can escape from me? Look at the funny sight of you running away with your tail between your leg!”

Bahamorg caught and firmly held 1 demon soldier. The paladins raised their shields and the defence formation meant that their survival rate increased.

“You will be completely annihilated according to Lugh’s will!”

Lugh’s Sword wielded by Derian!

While Bahamorg was defending, Derian would attack. The holy power of the restored Lugh’s Sword made even the demons shy away. They were so busy trying to escape and couldn’t counter-attack against Derian. Weed hadn’t confirmed it but Derian was at least in the mid-500s.

‘If I raise him well then he can play more of a role than Alveron.’

Derian had quick sword skills but most of his strength was based on holy power. He could deal with 2~3 demons by himself but the problem was that the demons avoided Derian.

The blessing magic from Alveron was the best. He sometimes used wide range healing magic. It was dangerous if he cast a holy spell against the demons but he was protected by the paladins.

‘I taught him properly. Nevertheless, a lecture is needed for training.’

Weed understood the characteristics of the paladins and made a formation while utilizing Derian and Alveron. The paladins and priests wouldn’t fight well without leadership. If a priest didn’t cast treatment magic at the appropriate timing then it could be dangerous to the paladins.

But that changed once Weed commanded them.

“Unit 1 will step back after attacking twice and Unit 2 will fill their place. Units 3 and 4 will use a crossbow attack while Unit 5 should be ready with spears to create distractions! Derian will use Lugh’s Sword to disturb the demon soldiers.”

The health and vitality of the demons were gradually shaved under the paladins’ offensive. He commanded the troops against the demons like he was conducting an orchestra. His ability to control the flow of combat like

it was music! He thoroughly grasped the characteristics of his subordinates and made them work.

“Unit 7 priests, use holy magic on the right arm of the demon holding the whip!”

The demons possessed high health and excellent defence so it didn't die in a short amount of time. But their ability to recovery was low compared to their level and aggression so hell wasn't well populated with them.

However, they exerted merciless power when weakened so the paladins couldn't relax until they were dead. Weed predicted the movement of the demons and commanded the paladins.

“There are indeed many good points about fighting in a group.”

Weed liked the feeling of leading a massive number of troops and continuously hunting boss class monsters. The demons were strong but they couldn't face a horde of people. The thing that exerted the maximum force over the demons was holy magic and numerical advantage!

“We have to fight these cunning fellows. Maintain our numerical dominance and isolate them. Paladins, stab your sword in from behind!”

The demons were too intimidating so it was natural for some paladins to become damaged. When the demon was about to die, it would give up its life and recklessly attack. This would kill a few paladins who couldn't survive even with healing magic. If he didn't prepare and command the troops properly then the formation would collapse and more people would die.

“30 paladins have already been killed.”

Weed sighed. The demons were very high level and the death of each paladin would cause his contribution to the related religion to fall.

“I'm going to have to prepare a bit more.”

He had prepared basic goods before the paladins entered Roderick's Labyrinth.

Torches, extra swords, minimal food etc.

He brought enough supplies to endure for 1 month and 10 days. The colossal amount of supplies Weed prepared through Mapan was enough to fill 22 carriages. He didn't want the group members to die from lack of food or materials. He had to solve Roderick's Labyrinth and exit before the supplies ran out.

"I have to move more slowly."

Weed only moved once the paladins and priests had perfect health and vitality. Of course, he still hadn't found a way to navigate the labyrinth. Even when he returned to a previous place, he still stuck to the left.

'There are still too many demon soldiers. We need to get used to them.'

There were two methods to get through Roderick's Labyrinth. One was to quickly visit the centre. The problem was that he didn't know the path but he could conserve his troops. Weed decided to go around.

'I have to fight as much as possible. There are too many unknown things about the labyrinth to recklessly rush forward. There must be a clue somewhere so I have to look through every last corner of the labyrinth.'

Jeidun moved extremely slowly and disabled the traps. At every break, the paladins would switch between sleeping or sentry duty.

The carriages Mapan gave him were baggage in the rear. From the beginning he had prepared for living in Roderick's Labyrinth.



"Looking for a part to go hunting at Ullenba Lair. I am a level 230 axe warrior and have already hunted there a few times."

"Does anyone have purple stones? I'm looking for 15 of them. It is essential for the success of enchanting magic."

"The monsters are dangerous so I'm looking for people to travel with to Rasuru village."

Time passed on the Versailles Continent while Weed wasn't seen. The Arpen Kingdom's territory widened and new buildings rose due to technological development. The ambitious architects challenged

themselves to complete one building after another as festivals took place throughout the kingdom.

“Hooray the Arpen Kingdom!”

“The performance to commemorate the completion of the clock tower is starting now.”

“Grass porridge! Grass porridge!”

The Grand Buildings were used to promote the development of the Arpen Kingdom. It was required for users who went hunting or adventuring for a long time to return to the village.

“Is this place the Yusellin village? I think I made a mistake...”

“The walls have widened and there are many people here. How did this village change to a city in a few months?”

“Ah, that is the Alkazar Bridge! They were making it when I left but it seems to be completed already.”

“We can now cross the river using that bridge. Aren’t there many lights on the other side?”

“It is evening so you can’t see it well but a city is being built there.”

Users sometimes stood in the middle of the street with dumb surprise.

“Where do I go if I want to reach the market?”

“What do you want to buy?”

“A leather trimming tool for my bag.”

“Oh, there is a leather specialist store in the South Square. The larger shopping centre is in the east but it will be difficult to find simple things there.”

“Thank you very much.”

The development speed was just as quick as Morata in the past as the entire Arpen Kingdom changed. If the kingdom developed then the capital Morata would prosper even more. It was an obvious choice for beginners to start in the north.

“The King of the Arpen Kingdom defends our pride and honour. King Weed is the only one who can bring back the glory of the Niflheim Empire.”

“It is an honour for the Imperial Knights to follow a charismatic and honourable new king.”

-Ddiring!

The Vent Castle Knights have sworn loyalty to King Weed of the Arpen Kingdom.

Praise for King Weed has spread through the Northern Continent. At first the remaining knights of the Niflheim Empire didn't believe such rumours. However the merchants talked while visiting and the knights gradually opened their hearts. The knights of the Niflheim Empire believe that King Weed of the Arpen Kingdom will lead them to glory.

Vent Castle now belongs to the Arpen Kingdom.

Residents of the Arpen Kingdom will visit Vent Castle and trading and migration is possible. All buildings and land owned by the Vent Castle has become the property of the Arpen Kingdom.

The influence of the Arpen Kingdom in this area has become very high.

“Aha! A new trade route has opened.”

“Merchants, quickly go to Vent Castle.”

“What local specialities will sell well?”

“That place does have enough goods so everything from Morata is popular.”

Beginner merchants riding carriages and others from the Arpen Kingdom flocked towards Vent Castle. Adventurers and knights also headed there.

“What kind of adventures will be here?”

“Go faster. We have to complete the first quests and dungeons.”

“Miller-nim, don't you have to go work today?”

“I took a one week vacation so I can access the game. The adventure will start today!”

Vent Castle remained intact even after the fall of the Niflheim Empire. It was natural for there to be many rare quests among the residents.

“Sir Knight, your method of handling a horse is still immature.”

“I came to learn.”

“I’ll teach you the Niflheim Empire’s methods of fighting on a horse.”

“Heok, that is an advanced technique....! I am prepared to die in order to learn it.”

Knights were able to acquire new techniques at the castle.

Many beginners who started in Morata chose a knight profession. Knights steadily rose horses, defended justice and was loyal to the kingdom. They also had high defence that could withstand strong monsters so it was a popular profession. But knights that didn’t belong to a village couldn’t gain honour and dignity. Those knights were the most pleased about the founding of the Arpen Kingdom.

“Now we can be openly called knights of the Arpen Kingdom!”

“Kya kya kya, I’m going to show off to my friends.”

Knights had influence in the kingdom and could receive better treatment from residents even if they had low fame. Of course, if there was a battle for the kingdom then they were obliged to go out and restore peace. But knights willing to do their duty could obtain a portion of the kingdom’s profit.

“Is there something coming from the sky?”

“Isn’t it a cloud?”

“It seems to be a piece of land...”

Lavias the sky island had arrived in the Arpen Kingdom. The island where the avians lived!

“The Arpen Kingdom is no joke. Something exciting is always

happening.”

“The pace that the Arpen Kingdom is developing at is hard to match. I’m a little behind so I’ll have to hunt eagerly.”

“CTS Media has a program related to the Arpen Kingdom every week. And the rumours in the taverns can’t be missed.”

Lavias the sky island neared Morata. The users were able to fly to Lavias through items purchased from the stores or quests.

The Grass Porridge Cult had an urgent meeting.

“Our Grass Porridge shouldn’t be undeveloped.”

“I agree. We need to spread the excellent taste of grass porridge to all continents.”

“If they taste the grass porridge then they will join.”

“I want to see a newly born bird pecking at bread.”

The avians joined the Grass Porridge Cult! And there were also discussions about why Weed hadn’t shown up for a long time. He succeeded in his hummingbird’s journey and training Radiant Sword in a storm.

“He rallied the priests and paladins of the Freya and Lugh Churches to go somewhere...I don’t know anything but it is bad if we haven’t heard any news.”

“Do you think his adventure will succeed?”

“Of course, he is Weed-nim!”



The Hermes Guild didn’t pass the time doing nothing.

“The integration for the occupied areas of the Kallamore Kingdom, Lasalle Kingdom and Britten Alliance Kingdom is almost complete.

“The Tullen Kingdom?”

“There are still some things to arrange there. We have the Beden Guild

cleaning up the last remaining forces of the Black Lion Guild.”

They made progress against the Cloud Guild of the Britten Alliance Kingdom. They had absorbed key members and slowly dismantling the guild.

The Kallamore Kingdom, Lasalle Kingdom, Britten Kingdom and the Tullen Kingdom had been perfectly devoured by the Haven Empire. The Hermes Guild knew that they wouldn't be able to stop once they started expanding their territory again.

“Pay attention to mine development, secure blacksmiths and open a supplies road.”

“We've established a plan for conquest.”

They would alienate other guilds while spreading and paying attention to the rear would weaken them. Lafaye prepared a conquest plan that would allow them to proceed without a hitch.

“The construction of the Imperial Palace?”

“The construction site is enormous so the completion rate is 83% despite hurrying.”

“Don't worry about the budget and commit to it.”

“There are no problems. But many decorations and artworks are required for the Imperial Palace. That's why there is a delay.”

Sculptures and artworks were indispensable for the elegance of a palace. The Imperial Palace increased the authority of the Emperor and maximized his grip on the entire Empire.

Normally architects and artists were commissioned by the guild. It was normal for them to complete buildings destroyed by wars. However, most architects with great workmanship moved to the north and they were forced to deal with roadside artists.

The north was taking the lead in cultural development.

They were lacking artists so the construction of the Imperial Palace was behind schedule.

“The Hermes Guild will begin their war of conquest once the Imperial Palace is completed.”

They didn't have any moral justification to conquer the continent. They just wanted to become the strongest force on the continent!

Their military would advance in 3 directions towards the Gadian, Ritten and Aidern Kingdoms.

“Is there any news about Weed's situation?”

Rather than the other competing guilds, Lafaye cared more about Weed. Whenever he was quiet, he would suddenly show up and cause a big incident!

“According to an analysis from our intelligence network, Weed has entered Roderick's Labyrinth.”

“Is that reliable information?”

“Someone in Somren City witnessed him hiring the paladins and priests from the Freya and Lugh Churches. And the only place that would require that much power nearby...”

“Roderick's Labyrinth. But going there is suicide.”

Lafaye thought it was outrageous for a moment.

‘Is he crazy? That is too hard if it is for his Sculpting Master Quest.’

He was surprised since no one had conquered Roderick's Labyrinth.

‘It will take some time to finish the class quest. If nothing unusual happens then Weed would finish the Class Master Quest first. But if he dies in the labyrinth then his sculpting skill would fall.’

Losing skill proficiency at this moment was serious. The damage was so large that it was likely Weed's other production skills would fall as well.

‘I just don't get it. Roderick's Labyrinth at this point...can he clear Roderick's Labyrinth?’

Lafaye shook his head.

So far, famous parties had challenged Roderick's Labyrinth. They all

failed to defeat it. The monsters were a problem but so was finding the correct path. The standard of the traps, monsters and maze was high enough to wipe out the whole Morningstar Guild.

“Roderick’s Labyrinth will be Weed’s destruction.”

That was the sobering analysis of the Hermes Guild.

“In the end, it seems to be that way.”

Lafaye nodded but wasn’t entirely convinced.

Something similar had occurred in Continent of Magic. Weed succeeded in all adventures that no one else could accomplish.

Chapter 5: Sacrifice of Paladins

Weed's lifestyle was suffering but he was glad about it.

"This is finally the taste of living."

It was rough but he was just grateful the priests, paladins and Bahamorg were still alive. They had been fighting the demon soldiers for 2 days and 54 paladins had already been sacrificed.

When they entered Roderick's Labyrinth, there had been 680 people but that number was quickly reducing. The paladins were getting damaged but they hadn't reached the centre of the labyrinth yet and were just wandering around the outer edges.

In the meantime, the cooperation and tactics of the priests and paladins had changed. They practiced healing or using with holy magic while being violently attacked by the demons and were able to reduce the damage.

"The energy pill is good for the body. Use all of it. It isn't any use now but it will come in handy later in the dangerous moments."

Weed had come prepared with many supplies. Most things were procured with the labyrinth in mind. Monster meat and leather, herbs to stop bleeding and other materials were obtained for the expedition.

"This is quite salty!"

Some supplies that could be used for level 200s were old so they were bitter. They were goods left behind from the early days of Royal Road where many people challenged Roderick's Labyrinth.

"Maybe other people didn't take them because they were considered useless."

Of course Weed packed all those goods. Sometimes valuable items were abandoned but this was a labyrinth so people couldn't go looking for it.

"I definitely have to get out alive."

Weed wasn't wearing flashy armour. If he wore Baharan's Bracelet and the Goddess' Knight Armour, then they were highly likely to drop if he

died. Although he was worried about the Goddess' Knight Armour, he had to wear it because it increased resistance against black magic and curses.

The extra leadership over paladins and priests was also required right now. Weed's charisma and leadership was at a very high level but there was a chance morale would fall in the very dangerous labyrinth.

"Take this, hiccup!"

So far Jeidun hadn't made any mistakes while disarming the traps. Weed promised to pay him in alcohol so he was drunk but it was better than the alternative.

"Ah...no. We shouldn't have come here. We'll die. Aaaack!"

"Now, have a cup of this..."

"Kyah, I like the taste of this alcohol. Ggol ggol ggol!"

So far the priests and paladins were still good.

"This is where the demon soldiers..."

"We have to punish everything."

In Bahamorg's case, he didn't have to worry about anything at all. He could take care of the enemy's offensive by himself even if 2~3 demons appeared.

Bahamorg and the paladins' levels slightly increased by facing the demon soldiers. The priests' treatment skill improved a bit but it wasn't a large difference.

Weed took one step and reached level 429.

The level of the demons was difficult to hunt every day. Outside the labyrinth they would be classified as boss class monsters. A party hunting level 500 monsters every day didn't exist. The paladins were sacrificed but those remaining could get quite a lot of experience and skill proficiency.

"I can use the demons to raise the level of Radiant Sword!"

Weed piled up experience by continuously using Radiant Sword. The only downside was that his contribution to the Freya and Lugh's Churches

would decrease and the group's combat power weakened. He was anxious about conquering Roderick's Labyrinth and getting out alive.

"I have to keep looking for a way through the labyrinth."

As he proceeded with searching through the labyrinth, 3~4 demon soldiers would appear.

"Concentrate the healing magic. This will be a prolonged battle. Even if the paladins on the front lines aren't injured, the priests should continue using healing magic. And Alveron."

"Yes, Weed-nim."

"Please use protection magic when those guys are chanting a spell. No one else can block it except you."

"I understand."

Commanding the troops was more difficult as a large number of demons showed up. The risk factor increase with the number of demon soldiers. The troops carried out a thorough defence formation but facing the demons wasn't easy.

"The humans who came here are moderately proficient."

"Let's all go to hell together!"

The demons' wide area magic exploded! Although the lead paladin was holding a shield, he turned grey and disappeared.

"Alveron, obscure their eyes!"

"Holy Buster!"

Alveron's holy magic caused an intense burst of light so painful that the demons temporarily couldn't open their eyes.

"Lugh's Miracle."

Derian used the power of Lugh's miracle to raise the ability of the paladins. Everyone used their maximum ability to interrupt the demon soldiers.

"The number of demons will start increasing and the defence formation

will be limited in a prolonged war.”

If it wasn't for his Blacksmithing and Cooking skills then more paladins would've died by now. Weed thoroughly screened the skills that the demon soldiers used. While the paladins could withstand a few physical attacks by the demons, it was important to hinder or stop their magic attacks.

“The troops have to move perfectly...in order to get rid of those guys.”

The combination of priests, paladins and Bahamorg needed to be perfect in order to fight back. Many more demons would emerge deeper in the labyrinth and the standard of the mutated monsters would rise as well.

“It can't be like this. It will become dangerous if more demons emerge.”

Currently the battles against the demons were smooth but it would become rougher as more troops were killed. The demon soldiers were cunning and didn't fight in a similar manner. If the paladins stayed in one place then an attack would be concentrated there and the iron defence would collapse. Failure to escape would be a quick death!

Although Weed carefully watched over them, so far 71 paladins had died.

‘I can't put them to work anymore.’

It was a shame that the casualties couldn't be resurrected with a necromancer's abilities. At least none of the priests had died yet due to the paladins' thorough protection. If there weren't any priests in a place where demons were running rampant then there would be devastating results.

“Bahamorg.”

“Speak.”

“I'm grateful that you're fighting with me.”

“I came here because I believed in you. It is also possible to fight against an enemy that isn't boring. I will fight like a barbarian warrior.”

Bahamorg was the most reliable person in Roderick's Labyrinth in Weed's view.

'I was afraid the other sculptural lifeforms would die so I didn't bring them. If I did, they would indeed die early.'

Bahamorg was able to endure against the demons' evil magic with the support of the priests. His race was meant to be warriors so he wouldn't die easily. He would probably hold out until the end and succumb after all his colleagues died.

Bahamorg was also at a similar level to the demon soldiers. Anything dangerous could be entrusted to him. Of course, there was no need to think about it until Bahamorg died.

"Bahamorg, keep advancing."

"I'm going. Jump at me, turiyaaa!"

-You have listened to the call of the wild.

Physical combat ability will improve by an overwhelming amount.

Attack skills will greatly increase.

Complicated skills that require thinking can't be used.

A warrior's roaring skill!

The wall, ceiling, broken table and candlestick that Bahamorg was moving towards melted and 7 demon soldiers flew out. Their muscular bodies were hovering in the air due to their wings and they were gripping axes in both hands.

"I heard news that humans had arrived. I didn't think they would reach here..."

"Catch them all!"

"Grant their death wishes."

"They will be chopped up by demons."

He had expected the number to grow but this was 7 at once! It was possible for demons to set up a secret ambush. The demons couldn't underestimate humans because many of them seemed to be priests.

"As expected from my destiny...but I am glad."

Weed never believed that everything could be solved easily due to good luck. He never entered the lottery or took minor prizes. He would write a review every time he purchased a product. If 3~4 demons steadily appeared then he would actually feel more suspicious!

“Step back and form a defence formation! Paladins should fire as soon as crossbows are loaded. That is the target. And start attacking with holy magic! Shower them with holy magic so that the demons can't approach!”

A large number of demons emerged so Weed's numbers would reduce unless they focused quickly. There were more of them so the damage would increase. Bahamorg tried to impede them but the demons scattered around.

It was the worst situation but the difficult part was ensuring the priests' mana didn't run out. The paladins attacked by the demons could receive healing. If the priests ran out of mana then it would be catastrophic.

If a large number of paladins died then the Roderick's Labyrinth quest would fail. Once the priests started to receive damage, it would be hard not to be wiped out by the labyrinth.



“One point attack!”

Weed continuously attacked one point on a demon's chest as holy magic exploded around him. He tried to use Texture Sword to destroy the opponent but unfortunately it didn't work.

Understanding the opponent's health and defence was required for Texture Sword. Pinpointing the health of a high level boss monster was hard. Even if he used his highest attack, the demon's defence was so high it was impossible to use Texture Sword.

‘The damage to the paladins is too large.’

He could see paladins facing the demons and losing their lives.

‘If it wasn't for Bahamorg then we wouldn't be able to hold out.’

Weed struck the demon soldier and pulled out a sculpture.

“Sculptural Destruction! Everything into strength.”

-You have used Sculptural Destruction.

The pain of destroying a Fine sculpture! The grief!

5 Art stats have permanently disappeared. Fame has decreased by 100.

The Art stat has been converted to Strength for one day.

Your Art stat is too high. Strength stat is too low so the conversion won't be completed all at once.

800 Strength has been changed to the level 8 advanced skill 'Severe Blow.'

When hitting enemies with the exact amount of power, enemies will be blown away. Probability of causing paralysis and confusion has increased.

980 Strength has been changed to the level 7 advanced skill 'Piercing Spear.'

The opponent's shield and armour will be smashed by the powerful attack.

1,430 Strength has been changed to the level 9 advanced skill 'Momentary Herculean Strength.'

Power will triple for a short amount of time. Enormous vitality is required.

1,598 Strength has been changed to the level 3 advanced skill 'Skilled Attacker.'

Increases damage of attack skills.

Weed immediately struck the demon's weapon.

-The collision has exceeded the limits of the sword and the durability of the Daemon Sword has decreased.

Durability would be restored with repairing.

“I'll do it. Now is the time to run wild!”

The demon's chest was full of gaps. The level was high so originally the

demon was very powerful. So far Weed had been pushed by the power of the demon. His health reduced due to the damage despite the Goddess' Knight Armour.

However, he was overflowing with strength after Sculptural Destruction.

“Heriam Fencing!”

Weed's sword moved freely in his hand like a toy as he continuously attacked the demon soldiers.

“Kuhek, a great human!”

The angle and speed of the sword was like magic as it left an afterimage while cutting the demon. The demons mainly used long and heavy weapons that were slow so they had no choice but to receive damage.

His mind wanted to face many demons at once but fighting against 1 was the best. The paladins and priests had to take on 4 demon soldiers. Alveron and Derian played an active part as they poured all their holy power into catching the demon troopers.

“Goddess Freya, I will go to your loving arms.”

“I'll raise my sword with courage.”

The paladins devoted their lives and eventually put away the 4 demon soldiers. Weed's hunt was also a success with the support of the priests. Meanwhile Bahamorg had been safely holding up against 2 demon soldiers.

‘Now there are only two left.’

Every one wasn't in a normal state but there was no place to avoid it. A lot of paladins had already died or received severe injuries but there were demons left so it would be dangerous if their morale fell.

“We will win. Now we just need to get rid of 2 more!”

-Skill: Lion's Roar has been used.

The morale of all allies within the influence of Lion's Roar has increased by 200%.

All confused states are released.

Your Leadership will increase by 300% for 5 minutes.

“For the Goddess!”

“Drive out the devil with Lugh’s light!”

The paladins and priests recovered their morale and continued fighting fiercely against the demons. Bahamorg’s treatment continued so his body had recovered close to its normal state.

“Kurot...it has become troublesome.”

“I want to slaughter even more.”

The 2 remaining demon soldiers sneaked from Bahamorg’s range and assaulted the paladins! Once the demons escaped the provocation, they chose to kill as many as possible rather than face Weed or Derian. And they didn’t care about their lives so the maximum damage was shown.

-All demon soldiers have been removed.

The sacrifice of all the paladins will be known once the labyrinth is exited.

“Kuuuk!”

“It was a terrible battle.”

Once the battle was finished and the damage confirmed, a staggering 22 paladins had died. There were many critical moments against the demon soldiers but the paladins held on with their indomitable spirit or else a lot more would’ve died. Alveron had at least 10 paladins die near him.

The paladins were able to achieve a miraculous victory due to their faith and Weed’s leadership.

“Too many people died in this one battle.”

The problem was that this fight would be repeated hundreds of times as he wandered through Roderick’s Labyrinth. Weed’s eyes grew darker.



No matter how optimistic a person was when entering Roderick's Labyrinth, they would eventually think of failure. Countless demons, monsters and magic! There were infinitely complicated paths that led to traps.

Derian, Alveron, the paladins, priests, Jeidun for finding traps and Bahamorg was the optimal configuration for this place. When a priest was drawn pulled into a drawn out fight, they would benefit from the paladins' defence.

The troops Weed led had a good balance of attack, defence and recovery. Taking that into consideration, borrowing Royal Knights from other kingdoms would be the best choice despite the high contribution required. They were only able to hold up in Roderick's Labyrinth that long due to Weed's cooking and production skills.

But the paladins paid a high cost as they kept on dying. 163 paladins had died since they entered Roderick's Labyrinth.

“At this rate, it is just extermination.”

Weed looked at the injured paladins lying around. A severe fight with 9 demon soldiers had finished just now and exhausted priests with low mana were lying down on the ground. A considerable number of paladins had been reduced since they first entered the labyrinth but they didn't give up.

Bahamorg's combat spirit was strong and he would fight until the end. The priests had a lot of faith and their willpower didn't fall easily. Another factor that maintained morale was Weed's tasty dishes. If morale ever fell then recovery speed would slow down and they might not be able to fight properly in battle.

He had thought about hiring mercenaries from the mercenary guilds but their morale would rapidly drop. They could also rebel and leave the group so it wasn't worth bringing them to a dangerous place.

“However the mercenaries could lure them. Even if it costs more money...”

Weed's face was earnest and serious unlike before. The paladins were becoming fewer and he still hadn't found a clue to navigate the labyrinth. More demons would emerge deeper into the maze so this was rather dangerous. If they continued walking in circles then they would be wiped out by the demons.

'Is this an impossible quest to succeed? No, it is not over yet. Just like bloated noodles, it is still too early to give up. I can't try again if I fail so I need to give everything in order to not regret it later.'

It was impossible to run away anyway. It wasn't possible to find an exit in the labyrinth and Yurin's Picture Movement skill couldn't penetrate the spatial distortions. He had to fight and find a way to overcome being trapped.

'This labyrinth is related to the secret sculpting technique. Of course, professions related to sculpting could overcome the maze.'

If they didn't have to worry about the path and just killed the demons then Bardray and the Royal Guards could overpower them. But they would receive considerable damage from the demons.

'Did I receive a clue from the sculpting quests that I've done so far?'

Weed thought about the secret sculpting technique quests that he had done so far. No matter how positively he thought about it, with his current power he would fail. He had to examine everything from the beginning in case he missed a clue. Then a quest related to Zahab suddenly rose up.

Weed took out a small hand mirror.

"I obtained this item....Inspect!"

-Truth Showing Hand Mirror.

Made of special materials, holy power is flowing through it. Reveals falsehoods and visions, leads one back to the way of truth.

Can be used in a particular place.

Restrictions: Can't be used by murderers or evil people.

When dancers, bards or priests equip this item, the effect of this item

doubles.

Options: Intelligence, Wisdom + 7.

Charm +23.

Maximum mana has increased by 11%.

Faith has increased by 38.

It will lead the way in a specific place.

A hand mirror belonging to Queen Evane who loved Zahab. It was normally used to verify his appearance after he used Sculpture Transformation.

-Additional information about the item has been revealed.

“Inspect!”

-Truth Showing Hand Mirror: Durability 14/25

A hand mirror kept by the Saint Manderia. It was a gift given to him by the King of Gadian.

Manderia tried to sell the hand mirror to help the poor but no jewellery merchant was willing to buy something given by a king.

But after Manderia died in a back alley, the hand mirror was imbued with the holy magic ‘Path of Truth.’

It reveals falsehoods and visions, leads one back to the way of truth. But it can only be used as long as Manderia’s holy power remains.

Restrictions: Can’t be used by murderers or evil people.

When dancers, bards or priests equip this item, the effect of this item doubles.

Once Manderia’s holy magic is depleted, the effects of the hand mirror will disappear.

Options: Magic Resistance +9%

Rare magic can be restored.

Intelligence, Wisdom + 24.

Charm +45.

Maximum mana has increased by 17%.

Faith has increased by 38.

It is possible to find the path in a labyrinth flowing with evil energy.

2 users remaining. When everything is used up, it will return to an ordinary hand mirror.

“A difficult to obtain item can only be used twice...I was too late for the quest connect to Zahab but this isn't bad. Path of Truth!”

Weed immediately used the hand mirror.

Paaaaat!

Light poured out of his hand and pointed to one of many paths.

“That is the right path.”

Weed had turned on the light of hope. If he walked forward then many demons would emerge from now on. The probability of Bahamorg, the paladins and priests holding on until they reached the destination was low.

Even so, there was a satisfied smile on Weed's face.

“There is still one use left in the item. It can still be sold at the auction even with one use remaining.”



Ding dong!

A great number of black sedans were lined up in front of Lee Hyun's house.

“CTS Media's audience rating is quite high these days...congratulations, Director Hyeon.”

“Haha, what are you saying? These days there are many fresh programs being broadcasted. The audience reactions are quite good...well, it is popular but that might fall in a few weeks.”

“LK will make a broadcast contract with Weed the God of War. The contents of the contract are so surprising that everyone has made a wasted trip. But I didn’t think the director of Digital Media would come directly.”

“The office was stuffy...I decided to take a trip outside.”

Those gathered before the gates didn’t believe those words. People with a heavy responsibility for each broadcasting station visited Lee Hyun’s house directly.

Lee Hyun had been concentrating on his Master Quest for a while so the broadcasting stations were thirsty for a special program. It was important to regularly raise the quality of the various programs and increase the fixed audience. The Royal Road viewers were increasing and the broadcasting stations gained a large profit from advertisements.

Selling the programs produced to foreign broadcasting companies also reaped an astronomical amount of profit. It was natural for foreign countries to connect and spend time in Royal Road. Royal Road related goods were sold in cities like Paris, London, Shanghai, Venice and Barcelona.

They all knew about Weed the God of War despite not knowing the South Korean president. If a broadcasting company produced a special program on Weed then their names would be known. The overall ratings would rise so the broadcasting stations couldn’t miss the chance.

Once information that Weed was entering Roderick’s Labyrinth spread, they immediately visited his house.

Ding dong, ding dong, ding dong.

“Hrmm, nothing is happening when I pressed the bell so he might be sleeping or playing Royal Road.”

“He isn’t picking up his phone so he might’ve gone outside.”

“Should we wait out here...”

“If you have an emergency then feel free to leave.”

“Director Hyeon, time will pass quickly while talking.”

The people in charge of the broadcasting stations waiting endlessly in front of Lee Hyun’s house. Lee Hyun was inside his house.

“The bean paste soup tastes very good today.”

He relaxed while eating rice and visited the home page of the Dark Gamers. He knew the people from the broadcasting stations were outside but he made them wait intentionally. It was common sense to gain the upper hand in negotiations. It was necessary to make them wait.

“Rururu...money will come in again.”

Lee Hyun hummed as he washed the dishes and slightly opened the window to let out the smell of bean paste soup. After a long time, he finally opened the door and went outside.

“What suddenly brings you here?”

“Haha, I just stopped by for a greeting.”

Naturally the people from the broadcasting stations didn’t come empty handed. Rumours had spread about Lee Hyun so they were each holding thick shopping bags.

‘Free gifts.’

‘He likes free things.’

They brought various things like cow ribs, red ginseng, chinaware, whisky, power tool set etc. The power tool set was specifically bought by KMC Media due to something Lee Hyun previously said.

-I often make improvements on my house. Having power tools would make it comfortable. I considered it but money is valuable but....it is absolutely necessary. If there is only 1 power tool then it would be a problem if it breaks down.

Director Kang brought a whole bag full of the latest power tools. It wasn’t a pure gift but a neat extortion by Lee Hyun.

‘This present speaks to my heart.’

There was no need for him to refuse the gifts from the broadcasting stations.

“Everyone...you brought these things for me. They are things that I need. Rib set, I'd like to have it. Please come in.”

Lee Hyun invited the broadcasting station officials into his house. Flashy presents were received so he should welcome them a little bit.

“Would you like any cold or hot drinks?”

“Something cool...”

“I'd like a warm beverage please.”

Lee Hyun took out some coffee mixes. Iced coffee mixture and general mocha coffee mixture! CHN Broadcast brought green tea as a present but he would save that for his sister to drink. The broadcasting station officials were used to eating expensive dishes at good restaurants. Lee Hyun knew this so he asked a question as he handed out coffee.

“By the way, what is the reason for visiting my house?”

“That....recently there are rumours that you took a company of paladins and entered Roderick's Labyrinth.

“Hahaha, it isn't important but the director wanted to greet you...”

Of course it was important that he entered Roderick's Labyrinth. Weed the God of War challenging the continent's 8th labyrinth was a great issue. If he conquered Roderick's Labyrinth then it was another event that would rewrite the continent's history.

“I am indeed currently inside Roderick's Labyrinth.”

“Heeok!”

“Then....this is a contract for a broadcast appearance.”

“This is definitely a good contract that is better than the other broadcasting stations.”

They came to give Lee Hyun the broadcast appearance contracts! The special appearance fee was enough to raise an orphan.

'I've grabbed hold of more assets.'

If he signed an exclusive contract with a broadcasting station then there was the contract signing money and appearance fees. But Lee Hyun decided to form an agreement with all the broadcasting stations at a relatively high price. Eating at many places was better than just one place.

"If you agree to show Roderick's Labyrinth...incentives are also prepared. How about a luxury car if you sign an exclusive contract with us?"

CTS Media offered money and a foreign car. Weed shook his head.

"I will not take the car."

For the most part, men were interested in cars. However insurance money, taxes, oil changes and tire changes were required every year. A car unnecessarily consumed money so Lee Hyun refused it.

"If it is cash then I will consider it positively."

"..."

Chapter 6: Landlord's Appearance

Weed wasn't going to succeed just because he found the path through the labyrinth.

"This time there are various branches."

Sometimes the light from the mirror would split into two or three directions at a crossroads. The space was distorted which meant that either path would allow him to reach the destination. Of course he didn't know which side was a shortcut. Moreover, the power of the demons increased as they went deeper so it was riskier.

"It is still difficult like this. It seems I need to use Sculpture Transformation."

The chaos warrior Kubichya that could use the dragon sword Red Star!

"Let's go!"

Weed used Sculpture Transformation and moved along the path revealed by the mirror with Bahamorg, the paladins and the priests. There were 9 demons waiting for them. It was solid evidence that they were reaching the centre of the labyrinth.

"Grrrr, weak humans have come."

"Do you have faith in the Gods? The Gods won't be able to save you."

The demon soldiers struck first.

"Bahamorg, charge!"

"Understood."

Weed was prepared for the difficult quest and brought boots and armour for a chaos warrior. He had nothing to fear with the protective equipment.

"Blink!"

He popped behind a demon and swung the Red Star.

"Keet!"

"It is fire, fire!"

Radiant Sword was effective against demons because it contained the light attribute, the next effective attribute after holy power. But the Red Star's flames could burn away evil so it boasted overwhelming damage against the demons.

"Kueeeek!"

"Hell! It is like I'm being burnt by the flames of hell!"

The demons wrapped in the flames of Red Star were in great pain. They had resistance to fire but these flames weren't easily quenched. Weed's combat power changed now that transformed and could use the Red Star.

"Persevere!"

Weed received the attacks of 2~3 demons. His health and resilience increased after becoming a chaos warrior but his body couldn't take attacks like Bahamorg. He attacked with the Red Star and used Blink the moment the demons got close. A chaos warrior was a combat species so they had an advantage over humans.

"I will definitely bite and eat him."

"The sword that human has. It is giving off the scent of dragon."

The demon soldiers chased after Weed. It became easier for Bahamorg, Derian and the paladins to hunt. Thanks to Weed's efficiency in luring the demons, they were able to win with only 23 paladins dying.

The deaths of the paladins couldn't be helped when looking at their strength and the number of demons. Bahamorg approached Weed.

"Are you okay?"

"This degree...isn't enough to blink at."

"I admire your resilience. Your patience isn't ordinary."

"It is natural since I am protecting my colleagues."

Weed didn't miss this opportunity increase his favour with Bahamorg.

The battle was so dangerous that he only had 25,000 health left when it finished. It was a considerably high number but his health had reached

150,000 when he changed to a chaos warrior. The demons were so strong that he had a lot of anxiety once it reached 20,000.

He often had to Blink when facing the demons so the priests couldn't treat him. He was able to withstand the demons' attacks thanks to the power of the Red Star.

"Anyway, this danger will be nothing compared to when we keep advancing."

They encountered 3 more battle after that. Weed ensured the safety of the paladins by playing the role of bait. He would attack the demons from behind and then lure them aggressively.

"Everyone jump at me!"

Weed yelled using Lion's Roar.

After their victory, Weed would be so injured it was like he was dead. But he was willing to bear such a burden to reduce the damage on the paladins.

"That bastard!"

"Get rid of his sword."

"Chew on his raw flesh!"

All the demon soldiers chased after Weed.

-You have been hit by the demon soldier's whip.

-The sword of the demon soldier Krobirub has hit your shoulder.

It is a severe injury and your left shoulder can't be used.

It was common for the demons' attacks to land on the ground. However, he could only teleport a short distance and 5~6 demons were chasing after him.

'Let's aim behind that demon over there. I can't stop moving. And the one in the front is the strongest.

He used all his combat experience to dodge the demons. His health fell to the bottom just as Bahamorg took some demons off him. The wild and

perilous battle brimming with so much intensity it was difficult to catch his breath!

“Ugh, we won this time. I really thought I was going to die.”

He managed to survive the battle due to Seo-yoon’s health being transferred through Seulroeo’s wedding ring. This time he had deliberately made the sculpture of Kubichya with thin fingers so the wedding ring could be worn.

Weed’s body received intense injuries so the priests gathered around to treat him. However a hopeless incident that he couldn’t predict occurred.

“Hiccup, kyaah! The alcohol is good today.”

Jeidun came out to dismantle a trap. The degree of difficulty for the traps also went up as the maze became deeper.

“Uh, should I touch the red line or the yellow line? Hiccup. Perhaps it is the red line?”

Kwa kwa kwa kwang!

A pile of stones fell from the ceiling and killed Jeidun!

“No! I have to make you work more..”

He knew the path to the destination but that didn’t matter. It wouldn’t be possible to dismantle the traps from now on.

“At this rate we really will be completely trapped here.”

Weed was stunned and stood at that spot for a while. Roderick’s Labyrinth was completely isolated. He knew the way but now he would receive damage from the traps even before fighting the demons. The lives of Bahamorg and the paladins weighed heavily on his shoulders.

“We will have to fight against Montus at the end of this path.”

Unfortunately, he felt a bad premonition. He knew where Montus was located so Weed could avoid him. Unfortunately Weed couldn’t avoid any places because he was looking for the research records. The possibility was high that he would have to go through that room or that it was

located there.

“In the future there will be more demon soldiers, traps and monsters...like this, the odds aren't in our favour.”

Weed finally admitted to his failure. He only took paladins and priests into Roderick's Labyrinth and the amount killed was great. Regular soldiers and mercenaries were difficult to lead well but their levels and combat power were higher than the paladins. If they entered the labyrinth as well then Weed might've succeeded after a long struggle. Now he felt despair as the faint light of hope disappeared. Weed needed to prepare something quickly.

“A disaster would be difficult. It can't be used every time the demons emerge and the weak priests would receive significant damage.”

Elemental Sculpting also wasn't suitable. The elementals were effective in various fields but the ability of a newly created elemental was weak. Dirtman and Fiery Pebble could be used in battle but the demons were too high level.

“There is a slightly better way. Something I didn't want to use....”

Sculpture Life Bestowal! It was a useful skill that could create a strong ally. The labyrinth was unstable so it wasn't possible to use Yurin's Picture Movement or summon the other sculptural lifeforms.

“I need to give life to a minimum of 5 in order for them to be useful. Creating more than 10....and many of them will probably die against the demons and Montus.”

Not only would his level significantly reduce when he used the skill, only sculptures at the Masterpiece standard or higher would be able to survive. He had made many of those sculptures to date but he hadn't brought them into Roderick's Labyrinth.

Even if the number of subordinates increased by giving life to sculptures, it wasn't easy for them to become stronger inside the maze. It was more likely that they would die against the demon soldiers.

“If I die and then use my fame to bring more free knights...even if I

regret it later, it is too late to find a way with traditional sculpting. Then...”

Weed released Sculpture Transformation and took out a wooden block received from the Freya Church.

“Now I need to urgently create a skill that will be the most useful...”

He decided to create a sculpting technique now that he was cornered. It was also possible to change the frustrating situation with a suitable skill. He had to produce a skill that could reverse the situation and be used repeatedly in the future.



Sakak sakak sakak.

Weed shaved the wooden block with Zahab’s Sculpting Knife. His hands sincerely filled in the small details! The sculpture of the secret technique was important so he had to concentrate perfectly.

‘This tension is like when I put down the deposit to buy a house.’

It was a skill that would become his companion from now on!

Something like Radiant Sword to fight against enemies was needed or similar to Sculpture Life Bestowal would be good. Creating a disaster or unforeseen changes like Sculpture Transformation would be useless. If he used sculpting to create an elemental then the utilization would rise even more. A skill that could change the current situation!

‘If I create too good a skill then the penalty will be severe. Anyway, there should be more wrinkles on the face.’

Weed was making a sculpture of an old grandfather. There was great wisdom in the deep eyes and a large amount of wrinkles. He wore magician’s robes and a wide brimmed hat.

‘The magic staff...there wasn’t a cloak.’

Right now he was sculpting a figure of Magician Roderick. He was sculpting the Roderick that he saw in the video fighting against Montus. The advantage of a sculptor was that he could reproduce the exact target that he saw.

Weed spent 7 hours making the sculpture.

-With the help of Freya's holy power, it is possible to create a new sculpting skill.

Please set the name of the new sculpture skill.

"Sculpture Resurrection."

-Sculpture Resurrection is correct?

"That's correct."

-Please define the sculpting skill.

Weed said in a heavy voice.

"In this land, there lived as many heroes as stars in the night sky. Emperor Geihar Von Arpen, Kolderim, the Great Magician Roderick and wise King Theodarren of the Rosenheim Kingdom."

Theodarren was a little less heroic compared to the others but he put it in specifically because of the pyramid he built. It was the sponsorship that was common in movies or dramas.

"It is a skill that can resurrect dead historical people."

-Due to the nature of the skill, a high penalty will be given.

Do you still want to proceed?

"I've already decided."

Even if the penalty was intense and he couldn't frequently use the skill, he had no choice.

-The sculpting skill has been completed.

Goddess Freya doesn't want you to violate the law of causality.

There will be a fixed price every time the sculpting skill is used.

-Wooden Statue: Durability 1/1

A wooden statue that contains Weed's skills.

Allows you to acquire the skill to raise a dead historical person.

However, Advanced Sculpting needs to be reached first.

-Sculpture Resurrection 1 (0%): It is possible to make a sculpture that will raise a great person not currently living.

Advanced Sculpting is required.

However, Art stat will decrease by 45 every time it is used. Faith is decreased by 10. 3 levels will fall.

The sculpture must accurately look like the target when they were alive and the length of resurrection depends on the skill level.

Presently 21 hours.

The current skill level can only raise 1 person at a time.

Only humans and similar races will respond to the call. Monsters are not possible.

The resurrected person shall possess their memories and abilities from when they were alive. They won't follow your commands and will act according to their own will. Sometimes they won't help and there is a possibility they will only do harm.

Goddess Freya won't agree to raising the same person twice.

The skill can be reused after 1 month.

-The skill proficiency of Sculpting has improved.

-Fame has increased by 2,430 due to the creating of a new secret sculpting technique.

Weed gave birth to the most valuable skill!

"It is a shame about the reduction in 3 levels."

Even though he called a great hero, that person was only active for 1 day.

"I have to pay expensive rent for something that isn't limitless!"

The drop in art, faith and his level was rent for 1 day's work.

"I have to use it anyway. Sculpture Resurrection!"

Weed immediately used the skill. He had been determined to revive

someone from the beginning.

Great Magician Roderick! The labyrinth was his home and laboratory.

-Sculpture Resurrection has been used.

The Great Magician Roderick has received the call and returned to this land.

45 Art stats have permanently disappeared.

Faith stat has been permanently reduced by 10.

Level has fallen by 3.

18,000 health and mana is consumed.

The person revived by Sculpture Resurrection will retain their knowledge and ability.

It is only a fixed short time but they are thankful for being able to move in this world again.

-The skill proficiency of Sculpture Resurrection has improved.

It was completely different from summoning the undead. The person actually existed again.

Weed's location was filled with a white light. The light gradually disappeared and a person showed up.

Great Magician Roderick!

He looked exactly like the image Weed had seen of Roderick before entering the labyrinth. Roderick muttered while looking around at the surroundings.

“I...apparently I fought against the devil Montus and died. And this is my home.”

He was a great magician and judged the situation quickly.

Weed approached him.

“Greetings to the Great Magician Roderick. I am honoured to meet you in a place like this.”

“Who are you?”

“I’m am Weed. My profession is a sculptor.”

“I’ve never heard of you.”

“Of course not.”

Weed wasn’t famous during the time that Roderick lived. He was recognized as a great sculptor and king of the Arpen Kingdom but Roderick didn’t treat him like that.

That was the power of fame. If Roderick travelled to villages or cities then he would quickly hear about Weed. But this was a separate place. Even if he could go outside, it was possible he might not approve of an employer like Weed.

“I heard about how Great Magician Roderick-nim trapped the devil Montus in here and was deeply impressed.”

“It was to make sure the peace of the continent didn’t break due to my mistake. It would be serious if Montus managed to get outside.”

“Of course. The continent was able to stay calm thanks to Roderick-nim.”

Weed responded. It was a society where everyone flattered each other.

“What do you wish from me?”

“Nothing. I was just worried that the trapped Montus would somehow get out one day.”

“I will eliminate Montus.”

“Is that so? Then can I help Roderick-nim from the side?”

“I alone am sufficient.”

Roderick slammed his magic staff into the ground. There wasn’t a large sound or anything terrifying happening but Weed’s eyes were drawn to the staff.

‘The price for a staff used by a great magician....kkul keok!’

There was a large diamond embedded that scattered light. Roderick was a great magician overflowing with confidence in his own ability. It was an attitude appropriate for a magician who understood the laws that the world was composed of and the power of mana.

‘Judge, lawyer, prosecutor and doctor.’

All professional occupations!

“It would be a huge honour if I could fight with Roderick-nim against the devil.”

“It will be dangerous.”

“My power is marginal but I will fight against this devil. I think the most valuable thing in my life is coming here. So I will stay near Roderick-nim and respectfully learn from you.”

“Wait here.”

“I would like to observe Roderick-nim as a sculptor so I can make a fine piece people will remember.”

“Then come along. But don’t become a hassle for me.”

“Of course.”

Roderick eventually agreed to let Weed come along.

‘Now I can just follow behind Roderick and reap the benefits. It cost me 3 levels so I should properly utilize him.’



Roderick had installed the traps so he knew where they were all located. That’s because this was his home, not someplace else.

“This place is fairly distant from my laboratory. The demons will move through the spatial distortions so we will have to fight along the way.”

“Yes, I will be ready.”

Weed had once again used Sculpture Transformation into Kubichya. Bahamorg, the paladins and the priests were also following behind Roderick.

9 demon soldiers were waiting for them.

“Kyahat, humans have come here...”

“They are the prey. Eh! I’ve seen that old man somewhere.”

“All those making a mess of my house, disappear. Body Explosion!”

The air compressed near the demons due to Roderick’s magic and it exploded, causing huge damage. The demons didn’t immediately die but suffered from minor and severe injuries. But that degree of magic wasn’t the reason why a great magician was feared.

“Flame Pillar.”

A large column of flames shot up where the demons were. The wide area magic that had an effect on the whole region! The demons continued receiving damage until the magic ended.

Great magicians were able to use magic in a row without a great delay between spells. The Flame Pillar was just intermediate level magic.

“Hell’s Fire. Rock Strike. Soul Impact!”

Roderick drove the demons away with ruthless attacks. Weed’s eyes flashed as he sensed a chance.

“Can I help you?”

“You will get in the way while I’m chanting a spell. Just watch the view.”

“Roderick-nim doesn’t need to kill all the demon soldiers. Isn’t it more important to reach Montus? Even my small power can help a little bit.”

“Then do what you want.”

“The paladins will stay in a defence formation and the priests will attack the demons directly with holy magic.”

Weed lined up paladins with shields on both sides of Roderick to protect him. The fully repaired armour and shield gleamed and light flashed off it. The priests intensively used holy magic on the demons.

“Kyahaak!”

“We have to kill that human.”

2 demon soldiers ran out.

“You are my share.”

“I will kill you according to Lugh’s will.”

Bahamorg and Derian took on those demons. So far they had struggled against 8~9 so 2 demons were simple enough.

“Kuwaaaak!”

And the demon Roderick was concentrating on caught on fire.

“Blink!”

Weed showed up next to the demon and wielded the Red Star.

-The demon soldier Tabias has been destroyed.

Fame has increased by 191 for all those who participated in the battle.

-You have acquired a little experience.

His right hand held the Red Star while his left hand moved quickly.

Suksak!

-Tabias’ Whip of Fear has been acquired.

-The belt of a demon soldier has been acquired.

-A black alchemy reagent has been acquired.

Next was the demon soldier that looked very weak.

-The demon soldier Rochyus has been destroyed.

Fame has increased by 171 for all those who participated in the battle.

-You have acquired a little experience.

-Agility has increased by 1 for hunting demon soldiers continuously.

Sususuk!

-Rochyus’ Broken Shoulder Blades has been acquired.

-Fragments of Hatred have been acquired.

“I will kill you for the justice of the continent.”

Weed chose demons that didn't have a lot of health left and dealt the final blow. Usually he was conceded the experience in a battle to his subordinates. But the paladins and priests weren't his subordinates and Roderick would disappear after 1 day.

A persistent battle for profit!

“There is no time. We must go faster.”

“Yes, Great Magician Roderick-nim.”

Roderick could only exist in this world for a limited time so he wasn't interested in experience.

“Bahamorg, fight quicker. Don't hesitate for other people.”

“I will do so.”

“The paladins and priests should also focus on speed.”

“Yes! We understand.”

Weed was the commander of the paladins and priests. He had shown hard work and dedication in the labyrinth and was rewarded for it.

‘Roderick can only remain for another 20 hours. We must achieve the goal in this labyrinth during that time.’

Chapter 7: Demon Slayer

Weed managed to restore the experience lost when he used Sculpture Resurrection. The demon soldiers had high levels so he gained a lot of experience after he dealt the last strike. It wasn't to the extent that he gained 3 levels but his experience bar was quickly filling.

Ddirring!

-The demon soldier Teipe has been destroyed by your seven continuous attacks.

-The skill proficiency of Sword Mastery has improved.

-You have gained the title Demon Slayer.

When hunting demon soldiers, the effectiveness of your attacks will improve.

The effect of the title will help your subordinates overcome fear.

You will receive more respect from the religious societies on the continent.

When hunting weak monsters in a dungeon, there is a chance of dealing a deadly blow.

The probability of acquiring an item from a demon soldier has improved.

Resistance to black magic and curses has increased by 2%.

When owning an item associated with demons, it is possible to extract a higher power.

Restrictions: Only those who had hunted 200 demon soldiers will be given the title.

A title he got from fighting!

As Weed created sculptures and accumulated stats, he surpassed his limits and became a stronger warrior. He gained fame, stats and special skills. The Geomchis weren't interested in production skills which was

why they were so strong. However, it wasn't easy to exceed their limits during battle and there were many cases where they died. Focusing on a safe hunt would prevent the development of his abilities.

'This will be useful when using the Daemon Sword.'

Right now he was wearing the Red Star but the Daemon Sword was very useful in everyday hunting.

"Now there are 12 more fights....Montus will be waiting."

"I see."

Weed responded politely to Roderick.

His magic was full of endless surprises. The magician's mana consumption was very serious. It was common sense that they would have to mediate for a short time to recover their power. Yet Roderick didn't need to take such breaks.

"Fever, Blind, Lightning Circle!"

Despite the fact that he recklessly used 3 magic spells in a row and repeated it in battle, he never showed any signs of running out of mana. He only knew Roderick for a short amount of time but Weed boldly asked him a question.

"What is the secret behind your mana not running out?"

"Isn't that too simple?"

"Huh?"

"It is what the world is made of. The world is filled with mana."

Everything in Royal Road was composed of mana.

"That's right."

"My body can drag in mana from the world in order to have an infinite source of mana."

"Oh, then it is possible to use magic even if the body doesn't contain mana."

“A situation like pulling in mana doesn’t occur that often. But I use advanced magic that consumes too much mana.”

Weed was completely envious of magicians.

‘How good would it be if I mastered magic instead of sculpting.’

It was inevitable that sculptors would be jealous of other professions. Roderick could pull a large amount of mana from his surroundings into his body. A break wasn’t necessary so he could be called the perfect battle magician.

Weed went to the place where Roderick devastated the demons with his magic and picked up the items.

“You seem to be lacking in power. Memorize the power of giants.”

“Thank you very much.”

Roderick chanted a spell that gave Weed, Bahamorg, the paladins and priests the power of the giants.

-The Grand Magician Roderick has used the spell ‘Power of Giants.’

Latent power will be awakened and increased to 300%.

The duration is 2 hours and 50 minutes.

The magician also mastered secondary magic. The ratio of power that the lower levelled people in the group received was higher. The blessings that priests could overlap so it was very useful. Even if their power was stronger, the paladins were still suffering from the attacks from the demons.

“You couldn’t avoid that?”

“We’re too weak...”

“I’ll chant a spell for swiftness.”

“You don’t need to do something like that.”

“Too noisy.”

-The Grand Magician Roderick has used ‘Spell of Quickness.’

Movement speed has become faster.

The delay time in skills has decreased.

The duration is 2 hours and 59 minutes.

Roderick was an arrogant and stubborn old man. He took the lead in battle and the others had to follow his movements. But their trust in him grew the more Weed, Bahamorg and the paladins fought together. Roderick could only exist in this world for another 9 hours and 40 minutes.

‘The path to the destination is going smoothly.’

All the traps were dismantled as they moved along the shortest path. But Weed was seriously strained when 12 demon soldiers appeared. These were demons who hadn’t seen any humans so far.

The intermediate demon commander Bulko!

“Summon Fire Golem!”

Roderick called out his guardian the Fire Golem. No matter how strong the demon was, it couldn’t stand against the huge Fire Golem! Only a high ranking magician could summon golems. The Fire Golem, Bahamorg and Roderick struck at the enemies.

“Grrr, split up and attack the humans.”

The clever demons spread out and attacked. So far, 200 paladins and 32 priests had died after meeting the demons. But the number of demons they killed in the labyrinth was tremendous so it wasn’t an insignificant sacrifice. None of the monsters mutated by Roderick’s research dared jump them.

After he finished eating and resting, Weed approached Roderick.

“We will soon reach the place where Montus is.”

“That’s right. I will send him back to hell.”

“Of course. By the way, I was just wondering something.”

“What is it?”

“I heard that you studied radiant beauty along with other sculptors.”

“It was very rewarding. And even I made no progress in it.”

“Can I ask what type of research you did?”

Weed was so nervous his heart was thumping.

“For the sake of research...there were dozens of attempts. I experienced a myriad of failures and there were impossible challenges. It is because we have to surpass the laws and limits of this world to express radiant beauty.”

“What was specifically involved?”

Weed held his breath as he waited for Roderick’s answer.

“How annoying. You won’t believe it even if I say it...you’ll see when you go to my laboratory.”

“Yes...”

“Go over there.”

There was a fall in intimacy! Roderick played an active role in the battle against the demons. He used ultimate combat magic!

“Sinner’s Bridle.”

A thick iron block formed around the foot of a demon soldier. It was a magic spell that decreased agility and movement speed.

“Flame Cannon, Hand of Evil!”

There was a fire attack strong enough to shake the labyrinth and a blackened hand emerged from the ground to grab a demon’s leg.

“Kyaat! No, I don’t want to be dragged!”

The ground closed over as 5 demons were pulled underneath. It was the end for the demon soldiers caught.

Weed was quick and used his accurate judgement to build up achievements in battle. The paladins and priests also fought the demons wandering around. Roderick was attentive to some extent but was mainly

interested in getting rid of the demons.

“My magic isn’t the same as before. If I had a reagent and auxiliary item then I would be able to show a stronger power.”

Roderick already had fearsome magic so his words were absurd.

‘Stronger than right now...I wonder if he was more powerful than Barkhan in the past?’

The decorations on the walls before flashier as Weed moved further into the labyrinth. There was a thick crust of dust but the hallways were filled with sculptures and artwork of knights. Of course, they had received serious damage over time so he couldn’t get an increase in stats or sculpting proficiency unless they were restored.

‘It is valuable. If only there was enough time...’

Weed had found some work. Restoration of all the art in Roderick’s Labyrinth! If he cleaned it perfectly then it would be a wonderful palace. While he was lost in his thoughts, they arrived in front of the large doors leading to Montus.

Despite the many long journeys through the labyrinth, this was the first time someone arrived in front of these doors. Weed wanted to know the place before the battle started so he asked Roderick about the room.

“What is beyond those doors?”

“It is a spacious room where visiting kings used to stay. I used it for my magic research and Montus is probably in there.”

Gulp.

Weed swallowed his saliva. No one on the Versailles Continent had arrived at this place in Roderick’s Labyrinth but it was difficult to imagine fighting against even a lower devil.

‘If this is a dream then it is definitely a nightmare...’

Despite that, excitement and tension rose. He would die if he lost but it was exhilarating to think about fighting against a lower devil. This might be the last battle so there was a long break this time. Bahamorg, the

paladins and the priests' equipment was repaired like they were new.

"Let's meet again alive."

"We can definitely win."

They exchanged words and had a generous meal. He used more than half of the remaining supplies Mapan had provided. He had been prepared for a long and risky fight against the demons from the beginning.

'If I die then I won't be able to take these goods out.'

He used his advanced cooking skills to create first class food. It even impressed Roderick who had eaten with kings on the continent.

"I haven't eaten for a long time.'

Roderick didn't need to recover mana and had a perfect physical body.

"I'm going."

8 paladins pushed open the doors.

"It is starting now."

Weed changed his body to Kubichya and equipped the Red Star. The doors were fully opened and the devil Montus was waiting for them.



Myeongdong's bond market was necessary for South Korea's economic development. Corporate bonds, corporate loans, discounted bills, etc. were all involved. Of course, there wasn't just the positive side of the process. The high rate of interest meant that politicians or criminals could take advantage of it.

Vicious loan sharks occupied a deep position.

"When are you collecting the funds from SA Construction?"

"One week later. The president asked for an extension, Hyung-nim."

"Collect the full amount."

"They won't be able to repay, Hyung-nim."

“I heard that President Park bought land in the metropolitan area under the company’s name and is developing it.”

“I understand what you mean. I will definitely handle it.”

The loan shark deliberately devoured the assets of businesses. There were many cases of people who borrowed money from loan sharks in order to urgently fund a building or factory.

This was a rising market in Myeongdong over the past 3~4 years. In the past, the high interest rates were aimed to the general public but now the targets were companies.

Of course, loans to the general public was still an important business. The financial sector was rapidly evolving and loan sharks were the target. Thanks to the cultural development of over-consumption of goods, the loan shark businesses had bright prospects.

Han Jin-sup meticulously combed through his ledger.

“The earnings for this month is good. Any news?”

“The store at Dongdaedum seems bad. The initial loan was around 4,000 and the interest has increased it to 9,000. Even if we clean out the store, only 2,000 would be recovered.”

“The family?”

“One daughter and two sons. One son is still in junior high school.”

“2 people should be able to pay it off.”

The system of money lending had changed a lot from the past. If the loan amount was large, the women would be handed over to bars. It was effective to squeeze a debtor but it was a crime so the company would be dissolved if caught. The funds were hidden in different organizations in advance but the risk was still considerable.

Thus they changed it into a legitimate business.

Over time, Royal Road had become the trend!

They rented a warehouse and gathered items before giving people jobs

to repay their debt. The room and board wasn't free and there was even a fee to use the game capsule so their debt didn't decrease. It was a place that they couldn't leave once they entered. It was a business that could get employees without paying a monthly salary.



Geomchi's Weapons Mastery reached 50% of advanced level 9.

"Now I feel like I've become a little stronger."

"The trainees have reached beyond advanced level 8."

They went hunting without the instructors around the clock. The trainees quickly trained their Weapons Mastery skill. They were familiar with a sword but they tested all sorts of weapons in combat like bows, spears, axes, hammers and maces.

Their proficiency in various weapons also increased Weapons Mastery. Even though their basic weapon was still a sword, they also carried a bow and had a small hand axe stuck at their waist.

Geomchi-100 liked looking at his reflection in the sword.

"I look like a valiant warrior."

Geomchi-150 was looking down like he was sleeping. A large axe was in both hands.

"It is the same for me, Sa-hyung. I have confidence in every type of battle."

The beginners who were crossing Peshil River using Alkazar Bridge were startled to see them.

"Bandits!"

"Not monsters?"

"I'll give you everything I have so please spare me. This is 3 gold!"

Their appearance was enough to not need a job for the rest of their lives!

Geomchi gathered the instructors and trainees together. A soft and warm smile was on his face because his girlfriend arrived in the north not

long ago. He had shown her around the north on dates so there was a slight smile on his face.

‘The last time he smiled like that, he punished us all night...’

‘He made us go into the mountains for survival training for 10 days.’

A murderous smile that was even worse than Weed’s rotten one! Geomchi spoke in a soft, gentle tone.

“Hey everyone.”

“Yes! Teacher-nim!”

The answer promptly came out like they were in the army.

“We will now challenge the Master Quest.”

“Yes! Teacher-nim’s words are the truth.”

They replied without any objections.

“Where are Geomchi-3 and Geomchi-5?”

“They are up to the 13th quest. We have to catch up with them.”

“So far there haven’t been any difficult points?”

“They managed to kill everything. There are some tricky martial arts to learn but if we fail then we can attempt it a few times.”

Despite the degree of difficulty, it was simple for people who lived their lives wielding the sword. It wasn’t possible to import their real bodies but their mentality and judgement was the same.

But they didn’t always use these strong points as they didn’t like calculation or memorization. That’s why sometimes several attempts were needed for a simple quest.

“Then let’s start the quest.”

“Yes, Teacher-nim.”

Geomchi moved with the gathered instructors and trainees. They were able to use all types of weapons due to Weapons Mastery. They took the weapons of the ogres, orcs and trolls after fighting them. They became

even more ignorant when united.



“Montus!”

“Roderick! I spent hundreds of years trapped here because of you.”

“Shut up. I will fix my mistake today.”

“I’ll chew up your heart just like in the past.”

Weed didn’t care about the dramatic reunion between Roderick and Montus. His priority was to check for other enemies.

‘Uhh, this won’t be easy.’

There were 30 demon soldiers! There were also a few medium sized monsters that normally lived in hell. They weren’t as high levelled as the demon soldiers but had strong resilience.

The walls, ceiling and floors looked different from previous images he had seen of the labyrinth. A liquid was flowing from eggs that hung everywhere. The eggs would hatch into an unknown creature.

“That is probably the eggs of a Talloss.”

There were many travellers who became writers. There were many old books stored since the early days of Royal Road and NPCs also wrote some.

Later the area that users explored widened and they wrote down stories. The users could also obtain special hints from adventurer’s notes. A traveller who went to hell drew pictures of eggs similar to this on their notes.

“They are born fast and harder than steel.”

They resembled spiders with 12~16 legs and could move quickly on the ground while attacking. They were troublesome even in hell. A very long time was needed before the eggs hatched. And they would wake up hungry so they would eat the closest prey.

Pasasasak!

The odds were against them if the Talloss eggs hatched! There were many Talloss eggs around this place.

“If they all awaken...and there are also 30 demon soldiers.

Prepare for combat!

This is a fight where we’ll have to risk our lives.”



“3 seconds before we go live!”

Today was a special day at the broadcasting station.

Since the broadcasting stations started showing Royal Road, the number of viewers increased every day. Funds were invested into the broadcasting stations and they greatly expanded to their current form. They broadcasted for 24 hours and even simultaneously sent it to foreign countries with subtitles.

The PDs and technical teams were done for the day but they were on emergency standby. Today was the day that Weed’s adventures in Roderick’s Labyrinth was going to be shown.

God of War, conquering Roderick’s Labyrinth.

Weed’s song part 1, part 2 and part 3.

Weed the Demon Slayer.

Weed’s adventures in Roderick’s Labyrinth up to the current point was shown on Sunday and continuously got high ratings. The individual stations could only compete in video quality, narration and music. They received the video in advance so it obviously went through some edits.

“Mom, I want to watch a cartoon.”

A young child tried to touch the remote.

“Eun-bi, please be quiet. If you keep doing this then I won’t help with your homework.”

“Che...Mom, aren’t you supposed to pick up the table?”

The daughter's grumbling didn't move her mother.

"I had the man deliver it. Mother doesn't want to go anywhere today. Go read a book. Tell me when the delivery man arrives."

The live broadcast of Roderick's Labyrinth started in the morning and went all the way into the evening.

The roasted chicken stores were also busier than public holidays.

Phone ringing!

"Apartment in Cheongdamdong, semi-seasoned and half fried..."

"There are no more chickens!"

If there wasn't a chicken store then it was a Chinese restaurant.

"Sichuan sweet and sour pork?"

"If you order now then you'll be waiting 3 hours."

A boom in the delivery industry! There were more people watching Royal Road than dramas and movies. Needless to say, the ratings were very high in other foreign countries apart from South Korea.

Chapter 8: Large Bloody Battle

“I’ll make you experience the pains of hell!”

“I won’t make the same mistake as last time. Storm Blizzard!”

Black magic poured out of Montus’s body. Roderick created many layers of protection magic around his body before also using magic. The collision of magic that made the labyrinth shake wildly! The greatest and flashiest magic battle was developing.

Rather than the 30 demon soldiers, the most urgent thing for Weed was stopping the Talloss eggs from hatching.

“Bahamorg.”

“You called.”

“I’m sorry for bringing you here. You finally found life again but you can’t even live it peace and relaxation.”

“I’m satisfied at being able to fight. A battle like this is exactly what I wanted.”

Fortunately there wasn’t any problems regarding his intimacy with Bahamorg.

‘If he survives the last battle then I can continue to make him work.’

The wandering demon soldiers decided to tackle the paladins. Bahamorg and Weed were in front but the paladins with their holy power was considered more of a threat by the demons.

“Carry out a thorough defence formation! Bahamorg, go in front and endure as much as possible. I will fight separately. Blink!”

Weed moved next to a Talloss egg and wielded the Red Star.

Peseseok!

-The Talloss egg has been broken.

“I need to break them before they hatch.”

Weed used a skill contained in the Red Star. At this rate, he felt anxious

that the dragon might come for the Red Star but it couldn't be helped.

“Summon Fire Hydra!”

The Red Star's magic was used and Fire Hydras appeared everywhere.

“Cook everything!”

The Fire Hydras spewed fire at the Talloss eggs. The fire even reached the eggs hanging from the ceiling and walls. Weed's mana rapidly recovered thanks to the influence of the Red Star. It is sufficient to use a powerful skill.

“Radiant Sword!”

It wasn't the ordinary Radiant Sword but the one that called a thunderbird. Weed swung his sword dozens of times.

The skill to call the thunderbird takes some time to kick in. Every time the sword moved, a thread of energy from the sword was pulled to slowly form the appearance of a thunderbird. And when the thunderbird's appearance was completely formed.

-Kuweeeek!

The thunderbird cried out and flew forward.

Kwarung! Kwarururung!

Kwaaaaaaah!

Thunderbolts struck everywhere as the thunderbird flew around. Not only that, the flames swirled and rose higher. The Red Star's attack skill was enhanced. The thunderbird drove thunderbolts and flames away from it by elegantly flapping its wings.

-Experience has been acquired.

-Experience has been acquired.

-Your level has risen.

Weed utilized his wide area skill in a location with many Talloss eggs. The Talloss eggs cracked and were destroyed by the fire or thunderbolt strikes. The thunderbird continued shooting thunderbolts as it gradually

disappeared.

But there are still eggs that weren't destroyed. This was an old palace so there were many eggs that lay in the ground or in cracks in the numerous pillars. They were starting to wake up from the surrounding turmoil. The battle with the demon soldiers was a problem but it would become more dangerous if the Talloss woke up.

"Paladin Unit 1, come forward. Break all the eggs not cooked by the fire!"

The paladins were fighting heavily against the demons but Weed couldn't destroy all the eggs alone and was forced to mobilize some.

"Under Lugh's name."

"Demons weren't born evil so I hope you go to a better place."

Dozens of paladins struck the eggs with their swords. There was a minimum of 2,000 eggs so it would be a big deal if they all hatched. The Talloss that had already woken up headed to the paladins and spewed out a blue liquid.

"I have to make a really quick judgement."

He only saw the environment once but it was replaying endlessly in his head.

Roderick and Montus. The two of them were using all types of advanced magic against each other. Roderick used the Haste spell in order to increase his movement speed. He was able to show movement that made a chase difficult while showing the terrible power of a magician. Roderick also summoned the Fire Golem to help him deal with Montus.

Every time the magic crashed against Montus, there was a repulsion force that would cause a shockwave.

"Roderick needs to win in as short a time as possible...."

The demon soldiers were showing superior attack power despite the paladins' defence. The number of Talloss hatching and walking on the ground was piling up.

They even ate the corpses of the colleagues who had died. Roderick was

too busy trying not to die, let alone help the paladins and priests. It would be good if Roderick could defeat Montus quickly but that didn't happen.

'He was also defeated in the past so there is no guarantee he will win this time.'

It didn't matter what tactics Weed used as the demon soldiers were too strong. A battle against strong enemies was occurring in a limited space so the defence formation of the paladins couldn't retreat.

Bahamorg was being circled by 5 demons. He had strong defence so he didn't fall down immediately. However, he wouldn't be able to endure for long. Everyone was being assaulted by the demon soldiers while made it difficult to attempt to reverse the situation.

Weed was worried about this. It was impossible to manage the troops and subordinates properly in a melee fight on the Versailles Continent. He just thought it was fortunate that he could survive on the front lines. It wasn't easy to take care of his body as well as command.

"I have to suffer. There is no end to my unlucky fate."

Although the Talloss were a problem, he needed to take care of the demon soldiers to prevent being wiped out. Weed used Blink to appear next to a demon soldier attacking Bahamorg.

"Heriam Fencing!"

The flaming Red Star continuously cut the demon soldiers. Weed had changed into a chaos warrior and received various blessings so his strength and physique became larger. The change in weight from his larger body could make his attack stronger.

Weed pressed back the demon soldiers using Heriam Fencing. It was important to attack quickly and to hit the enemy's weak point with a critical blow.

-The demon soldier Rukresia has gained additional fire damage.

-The defence of the Rukresia has been ignored!

-The demon soldier Rukresia has been continuously hit in its left

shoulder.

Strength and sense of balance has decreased.

-The body of the demon soldier Rukresia has been completely covered by the flames of the Red Star.

3,890 damage will be dealt every second.

Weed pushed back the demon soldier with Heriam Fencing.

“Fire Explosion!”

The demon soldier’s body exploded into flames like a fireball hit it.

-The demon soldier Rukresia couldn’t survive the concentrated attacks and has been destroyed.

More than half of its health remained but the continuous strong attacks have killed it. The Red Star showed overwhelming combat ability once he transformed into a chaos warrior.

Suksak.

-The Havana Leaf with a special quality has been acquired.

-A high purity Mithril Helmet has been acquired.

“There are 29 left.”

There was a smile on Weed’s face despite the disadvantageous situation.

High purity Mithril Helmet. It was a helmet that a level 400 knight belonging to the Morningstar Guild had worn. It was made by a dwarven blacksmith so it had exception defence and options to enhance the effect of combat skills.

The demon soldiers wandered all around Roderick’s Labyrinth and probably ended up here. Once Weed was done with his appraisal, he moved on to another demon soldier. 3 demon soldiers were trying to trample the priests beyond the paladin’s barrier. A demon soldier was in front of Alveron who absolutely had to be protected.

“Blink!”

Weed hurled attacks towards the 3 demons using the Red Star. He couldn't fully succeed in a surprise attack like before. The demons had very high intelligence and began to take precautions as soon as their colleagues died.

“He....”

“Kyaaat! Hot.”

The 3 demon soldiers easily blocked Weed's attacks and struck back.

A melee fight!

Weed couldn't leave the paladins to die. The 10 paladins who went out to break the Talloss eggs were killed by the demon soldiers.

“The eggs are waking up!”

“We have to stop the Talloss eggs from approaching.”

Weed stopped the demon soldiers' offensive while surveying the situation. The paladins and priests were holding out against the demon soldiers.

“Kueok!”

“Goddess Freya, please receive the feeble me who has succumbed to these evil presences.”

The paladins couldn't endure the enemy's attacks anymore and were dying. The Talloss were growing bigger as time passed. Their body was the length of an adult and the legs were several metres thick. The large Talloss broke through the paladin's defence formation, causing many of them to die.

“We finally came here but at this rate, we'll be wiped out.”



20 minutes passed and only 200 paladins were left. Around one third of the priests were sacrificed but the more serious problem was the mana consumed. If they ran out of mana then they wouldn't be able to use holy magic to fight or treat injuries.

Weed desperately struggled against the demon soldiers with his entire body injured. At least 3~4 demon soldiers were attacking him. If it wasn't for the Red Star's power and the priests' emergency healing then he would've died already. If the priests' mana was depleted then he would need to fight without any healing.

“Everyone jump at me!”

Weed yelled using Lion's Roar. It was necessary to shout in order to raise the morale of the paladins.

“I won't kill you easily. I'll let you taste a long and painful torment.”

“Kukuku. No one will get out of here alive.”

Weed fought back against the demon soldiers. The demons had superior physiques and power so Weed had no choice but to be in a crisis. The demons recognized that Weed was a threat so they always jumped him in groups.

“It won't be.”

Weed turned around and ran away.

“Heheheheheh.”

“There is no way to escape hell.”

The demon soldiers flapped their wings and fiercely chased after him. He lured the demon soldiers into the dangerous place where Roderick was using his magic.

“Completely burn down!”

A top ranked fire magic!

Hwarururuk!

Montus avoided the magic attack that Roderick unleashed. But the 5 demon soldiers chasing Weed in the area were hit by the magic. Unfortunately, 3 of them survived but were frozen. It was only a short time but he completely understood how to fight with Roderick.

“Sword-cloning!”

Weed formed 10 clones. And they cruelly attacked the frozen demon soldiers.

-The demon soldier Jenpian has been destroyed.

Fame has increased by 97 for all those who participated in the battle.

-The demon soldier Kruni has been destroyed.

Fame has increased by 142 for all those who participated in the battle.

-The demon soldier Malelus has been destroyed.

Fame has increased by 198 for all those who participated in the battle.

-You have fought bravely against the demon soldiers.

Fighting spirit and strength increased by 1.

“There are still demons to take care of.”

The paladins and priests died but they still dealt damage to the demons. They reduced the demons by 13 but their health and vitality were tired. Weed had used the chance to take care of 8 demons with Roderick's magic. The paladins lured the demons deeply and took care of them.

“Bahamorg is there so the paladins and priests can endure for a while.”

The recovery ability of the demon soldiers was very slow. Even if their health remained, their combat capability would decrease due to the lack of mana. The paladins and priests had rapid recovery so they fight against the demons. The problem was the Talloss eggs awakening.

Kuwek!

Wakjak!

The hatched Talloss didn't care about who won between the demons and the paladins. They just ate the demons or paladins closest to them. They also grew the more they ate.

“Ah, no! Goddess Freya, don't forsake your faithful servant!”

“If Lugh's Sword breaks in a place like this...”

Despite Weed's leadership, the morale of the paladins and priests was

rapidly falling. Their colleagues were dying and the devil Montus was spreading a dark influence.

“Buried Breath.”

“Deep Pipe!”

The priests used blessings while the devil cast insidious dark magic.

“How could I fall...?”

“Kikilkil! Why has Goddess Freya abandoned me?”

The paladins and priests were organized but it was clear that the situation wasn't positive.

“At this rate, everyone is going to die. Even if we win against the demons, how many will be able to survive...and if Montus wins then no one will survive.. I didn't go to so much trouble to get here just to die.”

He was concerned about the battle between Roderick and Montus. Montus' overwhelming magic meant that Roderick was constantly running and evading. If this situation continued with the Talloss joining then the paladins would unconditionally be wiped out. It was the same for Weed, Bahamorg and the priests.

“I need to gamble...strike at Montus. I need to do it immediately.”

Weed decided to make a gamble.

“Alveron!”

“Yes, Weed-nim.”

Alveron was wearing a white robe and treating the paladins. If it wasn't for him and Derian then the paladin's defence wall would've already collapsed. Bahamorg faced several demon troopers at once but fortunately he could endure it.

“I want you to keep an eye on me and heal me when needed. I need to stay alive if we all want to live.”

“I understand.”

Alveron's power was a great help to the priests yet Weed specified to

only heal him.

“Blink!”

Weed used his movement skill to show up near Montus. Montus' backside had a tail but it was still on the safe side.

“One point attack!”

He concentrated on cutting Montus' right wing.

-The third wing on the lower devil Montus' right side has been cut.

151 damage has been dealt due to his physical defence.

The Red Star adds 344 flame damage.

-The third wing on the lower devil Montus' right side has been cut.

213 damage has been dealt due to his physical defence.

The Red Star adds 358 flame damage.

-You have dealt a critical blow.

9% damage has been added.

The Red Star adds 698 flame damage.

-You have dealt a critical blow.

11% damage has been added.

The Red Star adds 745 flame damage.

-You have dealt a critical blow.

14% damage has been added.

The Red Star adds 916 flame damage.

It was unexpectedly huge damage! The attack damage was quite high despite the defence. But the wings were one of the most fragile parts of Montus so the effect of the repeated attacks showed. The 3rd wing on Montus' right side was wrapped in flames.

“Kuaah! This human dares touch me.”

Montus was furious at being attacked with fire. More than the health

lost, his honour and pride had been hurt. He threw the fireball in his hand that had been intended for Roderick towards Weed.

“Blink!”

Weed showed up on the opposite side of Montus. And continued to damage the other wings.

“Feel the pain!”

Montus twisted and swung his tail at Weed. He also flapped the damaged wings. The melee combat using Blink!

Weed’s body was quite large as a chaos warrior. But Montus was triple his size. It was to the extent that just spreading out the wings made the space seem small. It was a miracle that he managed to avoid the devil’s attack. Montus slammed his foot into the ground and caused a shockwave.

“Frozen Field!”

Then Roderick’s voice chanting a spell was heard.

“Don’t tell me...”

-You have entered the sphere of influence of Frozen Field.

Your body tried to resist but it is frozen.

Health has decreased by 32,985.

Movement is slowed.

White particles of ice touched the area Weed and Montus were in and froze them. He wasn’t a species with a special resistance but the flames of the Red Star meant his body wasn’t completely hardened.

“Goddess Freya, this person respects your will so make sure he doesn’t yield to the enemy. Divine Recovery!”

Alveron quickly filled up his health and raised his tolerance to the cold. Weed sneaked out of the frozen field and neared Montus again.

Roderick had cast an intense magic attack despite Weed being in the area. Montus had to avoid Roderick’s magic attack as well as Weed’s strikes to his wings. Montus used magic while striking the ground with his

tail and walked forward.

“Chukarulla’s Teeth!”

Roderick wasn’t aiming for an attack magic. Large fangs rose from the ground around Montus and shot into the air.

It was a magic aimed at destroying all lifeforms in the area. Weed used Blink to narrowly avoid a fang. Of course, there was a limit to how many times Blink could be used because it consumed quite a bit of mana. Therefore he couldn’t use any other attack skills and had to depend on the Red Star’s power.

“Let’s see this through to the end!”

Once the effect of the magic disappeared, Weed appeared again to cut Montus’ wings. Montus mainly used magic but his physical damage was strong enough to crush the pillars and walls. His tails and arms moved in order to stop the attacks on his wings. Weed didn’t realize that he had already been targeted by Montus.

-Your body has been stabbed by a wind spear.

Health has decreased by 28,193.

-The Sudden Strike magic is following you.

Weed was chased after by a tracking spell. Dozens of attack magic followed like a comet as he used Blink.

“This really isn’t easy!”

He moved his body as he hit the magic with the Red Star. Alveron treated any injuries received from not being able to dodge. Weed looked at Montus while pretending to fight the demon soldiers.

‘Obviously he is aiming for me.’

Montus’ wings were still on fire.

‘It is impossible for him to stand it.’

Weed had already grasped his personality. Devils were proud of their wings.

“Stigma of Sacrifice.”

Not surprisingly, Montus unleashed a magic attack. Letters made of gold light flew towards Weed. Weed was fighting against the demons when he suddenly used a skill.

“Blink!”

Montus’ stigma hit the demons.

“Kuwaaaak!”

The stigma was stamped upon 3 demons. The demons aged rapidly as they lost health. The demons who received the magic damage died. It was a strategy that risked his life in order to use Montus to kill the demons.

“More people will survive as the number of demons are reduced.”

Weed used his combat experience while facing the boss monster Montus to clean up the demons. If he made one small mistake and failed to escape from the magic then he would be dead.

‘I can’t deal significant damage to Montus even when I pour all my power into it.’

The wings had weak defence but Montus wouldn’t die from that. When Montus’ body was attacked, the Red Star’s damage was only enough to give scratches. Of course, there was fire damage but that fire would go out.

His attacks weren’t a special help but it annoyed Montus and drew his attention away from Roderick. Roderick was able to prepare attack magic against Montus without any interference thanks to Weed. Weed had the most dangerous role.

“Spatial Cut!”

Roderick was able to recite a long incantation for a large magic spell.

“I have to suffer so other people can feel comfortable. It is consistent with my destiny!”

Weed was hit by Montus in order to allow Roderick to cast his large magic. Weed persistently cut the devil’s wings while Roderick prepared his

spell. Montus opened his blazing wings and roared violently.

“These trash! A honourable warrior shouldn’t just run away. A fair fight!”

Weed wasn’t hurt by Montus’ accusations.

“I’m going to take that as a compliment.”

It was evidence of how he lived his life that he could get a devil to say bad things about him.

“I have to live a long life so I can collect my pensions!”

Montus’ wings were damaged by the wings while he also suffered under Roderick’s devastating spell. Of course, Montus’ health was high so it wasn’t to the extent that he would die. Montus had high magic resistance so he still had half his health left.

The devil Montus had high resilience that could endure advanced magic! The only hope was that his recovery power was low.

“I need to help Roderick. I have to use everything available. Blink!”

Weed lured Montus into the area with the Talloss before attacking. Montus was a lower devil but the Talloss still tried to eat him. There was no reason behind the Talloss’ actions. They just wanted to eat everything.

Kyakyakyat!

Montus tried to step on them.

“Kuwaaaaaah.”

Then Montus became angry and gave a loud shriek.

-You have heard Montus’ scream that started from the bottom of hell.

Morale has decreased by 89%.

You have resisted an abnormal state.

You have resisted an abnormal state.

You have resisted an abnormal state.

The probability of skills succeeding has decreased.

You have resisted an abnormal state.

“Kuaaak.”

“N-no.”

“Goddess Freya, give us faith and strength.”

“Lugh, please create a miracle!”

Weed was okay but the paladins and priests were a mess. Their protection skills, holy aura's and treatment magic failed.

“Keook!”

Some of the priests with low health collapsed and changed into a grey light as they died. Health and mana was consumed due to Montus' scream!

Weed rushed to use Lion's Roar. He needed to take command of the situation even without the treatment effects.

“Go to the corner and maintain a thorough defence situation! Defend each other until the curse is cancelled!”

The major effects of Montus' scream made the paladins and priests vulnerable. They had a religious occupation so there was some resistance. Ordinary knights and soldiers would've been wiped out at once. Only Bahamorg who had a high fighting spirit wasn't affected.

“These people are like worms. They are trash. You aren't necessary. Everyone should die.”

Montus stayed in one place and didn't aim at Weed or Roderick. He attacked all visible living things, including the demon soldiers. The demonic aura around Montus' spread further and the power of his magic spell increased by 1.5 times. It was the so called berserk condition.

Weed took a rest as he protected the priests and paladins in the corner along with Bahamorg. While the paladins and priests were praying in an effort to cancel the curse, Weed anxiously watched Montus running out of control.

Roderick was also close by.

“I’m sorry to drag you into this difficult fight.”

“Can you defeat Montus?”

“It is difficult.”

“That...didn’t you say you had confidence to fight by yourself?”

“He has become stronger than me. The devil has stayed here for a long time so he built up his abilities. In the past he wasn’t this strong...”

“I need to study your sculpting research!”

“It is in my laboratory through that hallway.”

All the Talloss eggs were in between.

“Are there demon soldiers there as well?”

“It seems so. And Montus is going to finish with those guys soon. Montus is so filled with anger that he won’t stop before killing everyone here. Especially since he dislikes you so much.”

Even if Weed managed to escape the labyrinth, the quest would be a failure if he didn’t obtain the research records. The demon soldiers were seized by Montus and died in vain. The demon soldiers’ magic couldn’t deal any special damage to Montus.

The fire burning his wings still hadn’t gone out as Montus massacred those around him. His intentions were obvious once he starting breaking the Talloss eggs. He wanted to get rid of everyone else first before dealing with Weed and Roderick.

The impatient nature of a devil!

“If I fail then the next person might be able to hunt him down.”

Weed had to consider this. The current battle was behind relayed to the entire world through various broadcasting stations. The next person who came here could analyse the magic Montus used, his health and mana and how to kill him.

They also learnt that quickly breaking the eggs would increase the

prospect of success. Of course, there weren't a lot of guilds that could form an expedition of this level. If they didn't have courage then they couldn't enter Roderick's Labyrinth.

A person like Weed who had a unfortunate destiny and needed to enter for a quest was rare.

Chapter 9: Great Achievement

“This isn’t good.”

Weed placed a bandage around Roderick’s injury.

“There’s no need. My body will disappear soon...”

“No. We are comrades who are fighting together.”

It was a warm comradery that made it feel like dirt was in his eyes!

“Fellow comrade...I’m a lone magician. That’s how I ended up like I did last time.”

The arrogant Roderick couldn’t hide his melancholy.

“It’s not too late. Now is an opportunity to correct that mistake.”

“Montus is stronger than me.”

“If we combine forces then there will be a way.”

“You won’t be much help.”

Magicians had really different personalities. Rather than friendship, loyalty or dedication, they judged a situation with calmness. It was good when a battle could be won but lacking when it was a disadvantageous situation.

“Roderick-nim can only exist in this world for another hour. Why don’t you fight enthusiastically while being prepared to risk your life?”

“Prepared to die....I’m already dead.”

“You will regret not doing your best for the sake of the world.”

“I understand what you’re talking about.”

Roderick began meditating to gather mana. The paladins and priests were praying piously to cancel the curse.

Weed took a break as he watched Montus running wild. Meanwhile, the Red Star’s flames fully restored his health and mana.

Ddiring!

-Your body is in the best condition.

The demon soldiers and Talloss were being smashed by Montus. Currently the Talloss were belatedly waking up from their eggs and Montus was taking out his anger towards Roderick and Weed on them.

Bahamorg's body returned to normal after using bandages and eating boiled potatoes. He had the resilience appropriate for a hero of the Arpen Empire.

Weed spoke to Roderick.

"I have a request."

"What is it?"

"We have to join forces now."

"I will fight my own way. I don't fight like a warrior."

Roderick was an existence difficult to handle. He was a legendary magician so it was hard to ask for cooperation.

"I know. But I'd like it if you only use fire type magic when I'm around Montus."

"I am well versed in fire magic so I can accept your request. If you buy some time then I can use a higher ranking magic..."

"Thank you. If we beat Montus then it is all due to Roderick-nim."

It didn't cost a lot so Roderick willingly agreed. And Weed also spoke to the paladins.

"We cannot allow this devil who goes against the Gods' will to cause chaos on the Versailles Continent."

"We are ready to fight at any time."

Derian who was acting as the representative replied. However, there were still half of the paladins who hadn't shaken off Montus' curse. They weren't fit for battle yet and needed to rest. If they fought a boss monster like Montus in such a condition then they would die.

"You will be swept away if you gather in groups. Give long distance

support using crossbows and holy magic.”

“Will that be enough?”

“Let’s just see.”

Weed wanted to save as much paladins as possible. He couldn’t recover the contribution if they didn’t return to the religious societies. Besides, the aspect of this battle changed now that it was near the end.

‘Quickly.’

Montus only had 2 wings remaining. He was filled with fury and wanted to kill everything, including Weed and Roderick. Of course, he was like that from the beginning but it was risky now that he was crazily attacking.

Weed had no option but to survive. And the monster was raising both arms while murmuring something.

“Blink!”

Weed started to move at that moment.

“Fire leaking from the land, large flames falling from the sky.”

Roderick cast a magic spell.

-The aura of fire has been absorbed.

Maximum health, mana and vitality will increase.

Your strength will continue to grow.

Weed was a chaos warrior so this spell was better than any blessing. The flames attacked the devil. Weed jumped towards the strongest existence he had ever fought to date.

“Seal of Oppression!”

As expected, Montus didn’t pay any attention to defence. He just received Weed and Roderick’s attacks while casting spells. And a chain explosion occurred.

The moment the spell was fired, Weed quickly avoided it while Roderick protected himself. The priests and paladins were scattered so damage was

reduced, but those that couldn't avoid it groaned with pain.

“Keohuhuhuk.”

“Merciful Goddess Freya, please save me.”

The priests were killed!

“Daemon of Ice.”

Montus continuously attacked with magic. But he was in the midst of madness so he didn't avoid any attacks. The flames burning Montus' body hadn't gone out yet.

“Continue attacking! Paladins keep on firing your crossbows. Even if there doesn't seem to be any changes on the surface, he is still receiving a little damage. Priests concentrate more on attacking than healing. Holy magic attacks! The only way to reduce sacrifices is to get rid of him quickly.”

Weed directed an all-out attack. Even if the priests and paladins were low levelled, their holy magic would deal damage to demons and undead monsters.

Montus alternated between attacking Roderick and Weed but didn't get any results. Roderick recovered with meditation while Weed cleverly used evasion manoeuvres.

Weed drew Montus' attention which allowed the group to attack him. This wasn't a formal fight so he was free to use his subordinates.

“Hammer of Balker!”

This time Montus aimed for the priests. A hammer consisting of lightning fell onto the area where female priests were gathered. The hammer shot lightning all over the place as it touched the ground.

“Kyaah!”

The priests couldn't endure the attacks and were killed. Weed saw the signs and attacked but he couldn't obstruct Montus' magic.

“Bahamorg, you have to intercept the next time the priests receive an

attack.”

“Understood.”

Bahamorg was a hero who could block enemy attacks. It was questionable if he could interrupt Montus’ magic but he had to give the command.

‘As time passes, the probability of winning will increase. Montus can only stay in this berserk state for a short time.’

Weed saw a glimmer of hope. The paladins and priests used the power of their faith to fight fiercely. It was fortunate that he brought them into the labyrinth. The abilities of his subordinates had gradually grown.

“You hurt those who did nothing wrong....you will pay the price by receiving a great pain.”

Roderick suddenly shouted after the priests died. He was a legendary magician with a proud nature. But he wasn’t a bad person fundamentally. He couldn’t stand it anymore after seeing Montus injure the priests who were followers of the Gods.

“Montus, I’m going to destroy you. All the mana in my body, burn without stopping. Mana Burn!”

It was a technique that burned all the mana in a magician’s body for an attack. Roderick couldn’t stomach Montus’ behaviour and used his strongest technique. When Mana Burn was used, a large explosion would occur on the opponent’s body.

Roderick’s mana was so intense that it shone brilliantly like a sun. It was concentrated on one spot and a tremendous explosion occurred.

“Kuooh!”

After Mana Burn disappeared, Montus had a huge wound. Part of his upper body, including the left shoulder had disappeared.

“Keoheoheok!”

Roderick coughed up blood and collapsed. Once Mana Burn was used, the magician would have no magic left and would fall into a state of

lethargy. Even Roderick was experience mana reflux symptoms. Now almost all the mana in his body had dried up and was flowing backwards so it was difficult for Roderick to participate in the battle anymore.

“Blink!”

Weed moved to the area near Montus. He couldn't attack after Roderick's spell.

“This is the last stretch. All paladins divide into 3 and charge! Bahamorg, you too!”

He shouted as he slashed the Red Star towards Montus. Montus was incapable to blocking due to the Mana Burn.

“Heriam Fencing!”

Weed combined the one-point attack with Heriam Fencing.

-The chest of the lower devil has been struck.

Defence is weakened and 296 damage dealt.

The Red Star adds 489 flame damage.

-The chest of the lower devil has been struck with all your might.

457 has been dealt by hitting the injured area.

Red Star adds 869 flame damage inside the body.

-The chest of the lower devil has been struck and became cracked.

Defence has collapsed so 799 damage has been inflicted.

Red Star spread 1,129 flame damage inside the body.

-You have dealt a critical blow!

12% damage has been added.

The Red Star adds 1,643 flame damage.

-You have dealt a critical blow!

19% damage has been added.

The Red Star adds 1,939 flame damage.

-You have dealt a critical blow!

24% damage has been added.

The Red Star adds 2,402 flame damage.

Montus' defence fell so he could inflict a lot of injuries. The Red Star set Montus ablaze every time Weed attacked. The paladins struck as they raced past while Bahamorg wielded his weapon at a short distance.

“Summon Spirit.”

The priests' holy magic washed over Montus. If it ended like this then Montus would be the first devil killed on the Versailles Continent. Weed had no interest in a glory like this. He just wanted to eat well and live easily.

“Flame Blaster.”

Kwa kwang!

Montus used a magic and Bahamorg and the paladins fell from the explosion. Bahamorg wasn't injured but a large number of paladins died.

Roderick didn't have any mana so he couldn't resist and lost his life. He was a legendary magician but couldn't get rid of Montus and disappeared.

And Weed was left.

-The aura of fire has been absorbed.

Strength has increased by 14%.

Fire magic was just like a blessing to Weed.

“Radiant Sword! Now there is nowhere for you to go!”

“Kuwek!”

Montus stumbled as blood dripped from his body. He was damaged by the Talloss while on his rampage. Damage from Roderick's magic had steadily accumulated, holy magic hit him and there was also Weed's strikes. Despite that, he was still hanging on and fighting.

“All paladins, fire your crossbows at his injured areas! Priests should

continue to use holy magic to harm him! Bahamorg, wait a moment and rest!”

Montus couldn't use magic in a row like he did earlier. His injuries made the power of his magic weaker. Derian and Alveron aimed all their power at Montus.

“All of you should die with me. D...estroyer!”

Ddiring!

-The lower devil Montus has used the large spell Destroyer.

This spell will offer his soul to destroy all life forms in the area. The power is akin to the magician's spell Ultimate Destruction.

There is 6 minutes left until the large spell Destroyer is completed.

Roderick didn't use the Ultimate Destruction spell in the labyrinth. The reason was because it required a vast amount of mana and a long chanting time. Ultimate Destruction was a spell that could blow up a whole castle.

Montus used up all his mana and offered his soul in order to destroy Weed.

Weed felt like tipping over a table.

“Indiscriminately attack!”

If he couldn't kill Montus within 6 minutes then the whole labyrinth would blow up. It would be the end of the sculptors' research records. The secret sculpting technique would also completely disappear.

“Radiant Sword!”

Light and fire emerged from the Red Star at the same time.

“This bastard! Just die.”

All of Weed's attacks were aimed at Montus' heart. The devil wouldn't die even with his limbs broken. Weed had to aim at the head or the heart. As Montus' spell progressed, the labyrinth started shaking like there was an earthquake. The pillars tilted and collapsed while stone sculptures fell

from the ceiling.

The paladins ran around but their bodies were still affected by the curse and they received intense injuries. The Talloss that belatedly woke up were looking for food again. The priest and paladins caught off guard lost their health as they were eaten.

Weed couldn't go rescue them. Montus had already turned into a solid mass of fire thanks to Weed's continuous offensives with the Red Star. Montus' health was constantly shrinking.

'I can't beat him like this.'

Montus' health was rapidly decreasing but he had a high fire resistance. Weed was able to exert the best damage after turning into a chaos warrior and using the Red Star. But it was insufficient.

'Right now I need more damage...I am lacking in attack power as a sculptor. It is why Bardray won.'

Even if he combined one point attack with Heriam Fencing, he wouldn't be able to eliminate Montus in time. Then an idea flashed in Weed's mind like lightning.

"Derian, toss me Lugh's Sword!"

Derian was protecting the priests from the Talloss. But he turned around and threw the sword without hesitation at Weed's scream.

"We definitely need to finish off the devil."

It was the sword belonging to the god Lugh!

"Sculpture Transformation release."

Weed put away the Red Star and changed back into a human. And he caught Lugh's Sword. It was the sword that he returned to the Church of Lugh after defeating Barkhan. It was a sword with the divine power fully recovered.

Once Sculpture Transformation was released, his health was so low that one proper hit would kill him. But this was the only way.

-You have grasped Lugh's Sword that fell to this land.

You have been recognized by the Church of Lugh and am qualified to handle the sword.

Faith will triple.

You can borrow the power of the sun to attack the enemies.

It is possible to cause a miracle due to your Faith.

Dark mana will be restrained.

Monsters below intermediate level will yield.

The body's recovery ability will double.

"Sculptural Destruction! Everything into strength!"

Weed broke a Fine sculpture of a 'Lion Lying Down.'

-You have used Sculptural Destruction.

The pain of destroying a Fine sculpture! The grief!

5 Art stats have permanently disappeared. Fame has decreased by 100.

The Art stat has been converted to Strength for one day.

Your Art stat is too high. Strength stat is too low so the conversion won't be completed all at once.

890 Strength has been changed to the level 8 advanced skill 'Severe Blow.'

When hitting enemies with the exact amount of power, enemies will be blown away.

Probability of causing paralysis and confusion has increased.

980 Strength has been changed to the level 7 advanced skill 'Piercing Spear.'

The opponent's shield and armour will be smashed by the powerful attack.

1,430 Strength has been changed to the level 9 advanced skill

‘Momentary Herculean Strength.’

Power will triple for a short amount of time. Enormous vitality is required.

850 Strength is utilized to maximize the sword’s base damage.

The durability will decrease quickly but the sword’s offense will increase by 35%.

Weed cut Montus with Lugh’s Sword. The Red Star’s formidable attack had wounded Montus but Lugh’s Sword tore through his body.

-The lower devil Montus has been cut.

1,469 damage has been dealt by the severe power.

The holy power has restrained the darkness.

The holy power has dealt 3,921 damage to the devil Montus.

Lugh’s Sword cut Montus several times and weakened him. Derian couldn’t avoid Montus’ attacks so he hadn’t been able to approach to use the sword’s power. Now that Weed used Sculpture Destruction, his offensive power was enough to make Montus miserable.

“Lugh’s Miracle!”

Energy sprang out of Weed’s body.

-Lugh’s Miracle has manifested.

A miracle has occurred due to your high Faith.

You will be protected by holy power when fighting against evil forces.

Movement speed has become faster.

Destructive power has become larger.

Montus was still engulfed by the flames of Red Star. Weed’s offensive continued to push him back. His wings were also unable to endure the flames and melted. Montus’ body was rapidly rotting as he lost health.

The time remaining for the Destroyer spell was 1 minute!

“Now to finish this!”

Weed drove his sword through Montus' chest. It accurately hit the heart!

"Kuwaaaaah!"

Montus disappeared with a flash of light that made it impossible for Weed to open his eyes. It was an attack that completely reduced all of the devil's health.

-Your level has risen.

-Your level has risen.

-Your level has risen.

-Your level has risen.

-The lower devil Montus trapped in Roderick's Labyrinth has been destroyed.

-Fame has increased by 4,190 due to the great achievement.

-Charisma has increased by 8.

-Fighting Spirit has increased by 9.

-Strength has increased by 4.

The skill 'Severe Blow' has been learnt during the battle.

-Agility has increased by 7 and the skill 'Precise Attack' has been learnt.

-All stats have increased by 3 for those who participated in the battle.

-You have fought against the devil Montus and won.

The most outstanding combat victory on the Versailles Continent has been achieved. Not even the knight Ron Daiku can accomplish such a great and holy victory.

As a combat commander, your leadership over soldiers will improve.

Knights will be honoured to follow your command.

You will be hailed by all the inhabitants of the continent.

All bards on the Versailles Continent will write songs about you. Every time your song spreads, your fame will rise and infamy decrease.

Dignity has increased by 51.

Your adventure in Roderick's Labyrinth has succeeded. You will become the idol of all adventurers.

Knights who believe in the gods will trust you.

His level rose and he also gained battle skills!

The shaking in the area stopped as Montus disappeared. After Barkhan, Lugh's Sword killed the devil Montus as well.

Weed's hand moved forward.

-A Devil's Helmet has been acquired.

-A Blood Soaked Whip has been acquired.

-A huge diamond has been acquired.

-A Stone of Hell has been acquired.

The items were dropped by the devil Montus so he had high expectations.

"Inspect!"

-Devil's Helmet: Durability 290/290. Defence 161.

A helmet left by the lower devil Montus.

Only those with absolute strength can wear it.

It is imbued with evil forces, making it dangerous for those with low Faith. When a person lacking in faith wears it, a curse will decrease their vitality and stats.

Restrictions: Level 640.

Strength 1,700.

Faith 800.

Options: Endless defence.

Enemy will be quickly engulfed in fear.

Combat skills will be reinforced when injured.

Enhanced resistance to black magic and hell magic.

Wisdom + 98.

Knowledge + 115.

Intermediate level black magic will consume less mana.

Magic incantation time is reduced.

The power of all combat skill + 12%.

Can't be lost.

Battle Fame + 8,000

Weed was quite satisfied with it.

The Devil's Helmet possessed great options.

-The Blood Soaked Whip has rejected you.

You are pushed by the devil's power and lost 3,696 health.

His Blacksmithing skill reduced the wearer restrictions. Despite that, he still couldn't touch the Blood Soaked Whip. Weed put the whip into his backpack for safekeeping.

The paladins and priests were still fighting.

"This is disgusting. Let's go to Roderick's room."

He moved towards the priests and paladins. They fought the Talloss that had woken up. Although the boss monster Montus had been defeated, the Talloss were still formidable opponents. They destroyed the Talloss and Talloss eggs.

Weed looked on from the other side of Roderick's Labyrinth as he ate barley bread. Weed, the paladins, the priests and Bahamorg were finally able to rest. He had prepared the best dinner before fighting against Montus but now hard bread was thrown.

"You all worked really hard. Many paladins entered this labyrinth and lost their lives but Montus, the threat to the continent's peace has been extinguished!"

Of course, Weed was responsible for them entering the labyrinth but there was no need to mention that.

“Oh, merciful Goddess Freya...”

“We have managed to maintain Lugh’s brightness!”

“Their sacrifices weren’t in vain as we finished the fight.”

Weed had taken a break and recovered so now it was time to find Roderick’s research records. Now that Montus was dead, the few demon soldiers that emerged weren’t a threat. He had crossed the largest mountain and now his destination was close.

“I have opened my eyes to suffering. I will spread Lugh’s brightness.”

“Goddess Freya, please guide us.”

Paaaah!

A faint light extended from the priests and paladins. Weed had gained skills while they were promoted to a senior position.

The so-called secondary advancement!

Their levels had surpassed 400 once entering Roderick’s Labyrinth.

“Well, I used almost all my contribution...I have to make them work next time.”

Weed made a serious effect but only 150 paladins and priests remained. It showed how dangerous and tough the battles in the labyrinth were.

“Humans coming to this place...it will be where you die.”

“Kuhuhuhut, I’ll eat all of you.”

“You’ll taste pain.”

There were 10 demon soldiers located where Roderick’s research records were. So far they had fought many battles with demons so it wasn’t hard to clean up this place. The personnel had been reduced but their strength rose so they could easily hit the demon soldiers.

-The demons in Roderick’s laboratory has been overpowered.

“I finally reached here.”

Weed felt a deep emotion.

All sorts of items were kept in Roderick’s laboratory. Many items that other users would be shocked to see were covered with a thick layer of dust. Magic books, research records, reagents, jewellery with magic sealed in them, mana stones etc. were collected.

The books contained valuable high ranking magic. Magicians didn’t like to show others their magic. They tended to gain special knowledge and wisdom in one type of magic.

In Romuna’s case, she became known as ‘magician who can cause a river of fire.’ It was possible to hear her being called that in the taverns. It was a great source of pride for Romuna when store owners or workers would call her that.

Ddiring!

-An underground map of the labyrinth has been acquired.

There was also a map that showed the correct path through Roderick’s Labyrinth.

“I’ll never come back here again but I should consider other people. I can sell it for a better price.”

He thought of other people suffering too! In the meantime, the carriages that had contained the supplies were brought into the room. Weed sat down at the desk Roderick used. He confirmed the delicate grains and stamped marks.

“This desk, it isn’t made out of an ordinary wood. The material is glossy and a good quality. Bahamorg, collect it!”

He didn’t leave one piece of furniture behind as he quickly swept up all the desks, chairs and bookshelves.

Ddiring!

-The research records related to the history of sculpting has been acquired.

He had obtained the necessary item for the 'Roderick's Labyrinth' quest.

Roderick's laboratory was cleaned out by the movers!

"I won't visit a place like this often so I have to gather every bit of profit. And now the problem is to exit..."

Weed opened the underground map and examined it.

"If we fight 16 more times then we can exit."

There was no need to go back the way they came due to spatial distortion. But there were still traps and demons so the paladins would keep dying. However, his mind was relaxed because he had just achieved a really important mission.

"And let's see, this picture here..."

A complex pattern of runes was carved on the ground of the laboratory.

"A magic movement circle."

A teleport that would quickly move him outside! Weed had previously used it during an adventure related to the Freya Church.

"Let's do this."

He embedded mana stones on the ground and mana flowed along the pattern.

Pasususuk!

It amplified and gradually climbed upwards.

"Let's go."

Weed, the paladins, the priests, Bahamorg and the carriages entered the circle.

-Roderick's Labyrinth has been conquered.



After a while, Weed arrived on a windy hill near Roderick's Labyrinth. Everyone had escaped unharmed.

"First I need to confirm how to proceed with the quest."

Weed pulled out the sculpting research records. They had exited the labyrinth and this place was safe. If he lingered here then users would visit but he wouldn't stay that long.

Ddirring!

-The research records related to the final secret sculpting technique has been read.

【Roderick's Notes.

The perspective of beauty is bound to be different for each person. Going beyond the limitations and constraints of a sculpture to express beauty.

Many were scared of challenges it but sculptors had great ambitions. They might seem weak, causing the artists to laugh at them but they conquer many hardships with their imagination and new creations.

Sculptors began studying the formation of a sculpture that is the most beautiful in the world.

And one sculptor made an improbable claim.

“I thought a tremendous sculpture would express radiant beauty.

But it was the small beauties that passed by that led me to the path of sculpting.”

“A trivial thing has large meanings.”】

“I feel uneasy for some reason.

Weed felt a tremendous resentment towards the sculptors as he read up to here. He went through incredible danger in Roderick's Labyrinth to obtain this, only to be told that small beauties held the clue.

However, it was too early to be disappointed so Weed continued reading the research records.

Chapter 10: Roderick's Research Records

【 “There is beauty in the little things around us. We just don't recognize it properly. ”

“I saw the sunlight shining on the sea. Since then, I questioned the beautiful sculptures I created.”

“True beauty isn't something that can be seen when moving too quickly. It will just become the reminder of a faint memory.”

“How beautiful are the raindrops falling from dark clouds? The raindrops falling on flowers, trees and leaves are really beautiful. We are surrounded by such beauty every day but we just walk past it.”

“It is the same for sunlight on a sunny day. That light becomes a basis for sculpting. How much do we know about that light? The warm light shining on objects causes pleasure...”

“Wouldn't it be nice to express the beauty of quiet and calm moments?”

“I sympathize with the method to express radiant beauty.”

“Everyone has these memories. When I saw the most beautiful thing... there was an illusion that everything became still.”

“Beauty doesn't wait for anyone. If the world stops then representing beauty would become much easier.”

Sculptors who spoke about the little beauties wanted to stop the world. They indeed had whimsical imaginations.

If time was stopped, it would be possible to enjoy the beauty of the passing water and wind. The beauty of the world could be expressed if the sculptors carefully observed the world.

The sculptors decided how to represent radiant beauty at the end of their discussion. If everything in the world stopped moving then they could contemplate the beauty of the moment.

Time Sculpting!

I am Roderick and I decided on this goal with the other sculptors. 】

A terrible goal!

“Keheok!”

Weed truly appreciated the sculptors.

“A sculptor should be born with this much ambition. If they only sold sculptures every day then they wouldn’t be able to live. Everyone is dead! If this quest succeeds then I can take the foundation they built.”



While the battle with Montus was taking place, all of Morata was quiet.

“Ah...”

“It can’t be...”

“Kyah, how? He was injured again rescuing the paladins.”

“Avoid it! If he can’t escape then it won’t be possible to win...”

Only voices filled with regret were occasionally heard from the taverns. Even those drinking beer were quiet. Unlike the past, those who chose to start in the Arpen Kingdom could choose the avian species.

In addition to developing similar physical abilities, they could spread their wings and fly in the sky. Those who became archers or warriors were very helpful during battles on the plains so they often joined hunting parties. It was popular to see newly created characters sitting on tree branches and flapping their wings.

Humans, orcs, elves, dwarves, barbarians and various species sat together silently as Weed’s battle continued.

The moment Weed conquered Roderick’s Labyrinth, silence simultaneously occurred in Morata’s taverns and squares.

“Hooray!”

“Eat as much fried chicken as you want! Eat at Sandra’s!”

“I am the owner of the Wind Garden tavern. A chef with beginner’s level 6 cooking skill. There will be unlimited free beer for today!”

“1,200 servings of grass porridge are being boiled at the square. Let’s go quickly!”

“Special discount! As commemoration for the completion of King Weed’s quest, we are buying all japtem for an extra 14%.”

“Sale on long swords! There will be a small margin only for today. I will also provide 3 whetstones. Don’t miss this opportunity.”

“Low price gratitude event! All items will be sold for 3 gold or less.”

The entire Arpen Kingdom was cheerful. And a Kingdom Quest appeared for users that belonged to it.

Ddirring!

-Arpen Kingdom’s Palace

The Arpen Kingdom is conquering the Northern Continent.

The emerging Arpen Kingdom is rapidly expanding its territory. The barbarians, elves, dwarves, orcs and residents of the Niflheim Empire are included in the vast territory.

New cities are springing up as peace is secured. King Weed has established a nation built on courage and spirit.

Construct a palace that will become the symbol of the Arpen Kingdom’s reign.

Level of Difficulty: Kingdom Quest.

Compensation: Kingdom Contribution.

Quest Restrictions: Limited to those belonging to the Arpen Kingdom.

Weed’s fame and the residents’ loyalty in him caused a Kingdom Quest to occur. When construction of palaces in other kingdoms started, taxes were raised and various allowances made. The Arpen Kingdom had an astronomical surplus of internal funds accumulated.

Weed’s goal was to gain 2 million gold that he could embezzle! The palace construction quest started on the basis of that money.

“T-there was something like this.”

“Am I going to work again starting from today?”

“We need to decide on a construction site for the Royal Palace.

And there needs to be a road to the quarry to carry the materials.”

The users of the Arpen Kingdom were familiar with large constructions. They had built a Grand Building in each region.

“I am burning with the desire to create artwork. There will be no shortage of decorations in the palace.”

“Armour for knights...I won't sell them and will deliver them to the Royal Hall to be exhibited.”

The artists and blacksmiths were prepared. Even the ceramists and sculptors were happy to work.

“I have to bake the mud.”

“I'm going to split apart stones while eating rice every day.”

The architect users were gathered separately.

“Really luxurious...”

“A worthy Royal Palace is needed.”

“The current estimated budget is 2 million gold but...”

“The construction costs is always increasing.”

“Where should the location be?”

The location was a critical requirement.

The Royal Palace was the centre of the government.

The loyalty of the residents living close to the Royal Palace would be maintained and not fall. It would also spread its influence in the local politics. Currently the northern kingdom was filled with vacant land and villages so political influence was very important. The Royal Palace played a role in promoting economic growth so there were many opinions in Morata.

“The capital city is Morata.”

“Morata needs to be known as a great city throughout the entire continent. It will become even greater once the Royal Palace is built.”

“A road to easily transport materials is required. The necessary workmen need to be obtained as well. That will shorten the construction period.”

“But there isn’t anywhere wide enough to construct a palace in Morata.

“If the shanty village is knocked down...”

“That isn’t going to happen!”

As Morata expanded, intermediate level and luxury homes were built. But the shacks still stayed as a specialty. The shanty village grew and artwork and sculptures filled the back alleys. Flowers bloomed in the streets as art and culture expanded.

“So where do you recommend?”

“We need a broader view.”

Adventurers, merchants and Grass Porridge members were part of the committee to construct the palace. A map of the northern continent was opened in order to select a palace construction site.

“The beach seems to be inadequate.”

“Wouldn’t it be better for a harbour development?”

“Although the problem can be settled step by step, right now there are many places inland that can’t be developed.”

“The north is waking up but there are many places buried.”

The northern villages had been harassed by the cold and monsters. Once the Arpen Kingdom was founded, its territory was increasing rapidly but some villages were completely wiped out by monsters.

A large number of records and adventures would disappear when a village was destroyed. If a new village was constructed there in the future then trial and errors will need to be experienced when adventuring around the area.

“There is a high probability that commerce will develop in the future.”

“It would be good to consult the history books of the Niflheim Empire.”

“There shouldn’t be any nearby villages.”

“A flat place with a river flowing would be good.”

This issue was just as important as picking the capital city.

“How about the area between Vargo Fortress and the Garden of the Gods?”

“Isn’t that the centre of the north?”

“This will become a central place in the future. It is a fair distance to the Garden of the Gods and Vargo Fortress and there is plenty of empty land.”

“Roads can also be opened up.”

“The problem is that the plains with a river isn’t that wide...the Royal Palace needs a vast area for the residential estates and business district as well.”

The users were familiar with the vast plains in the north. The vacant land between the Garden of the Gods and Vargo Fortress was a very large place according to Morata’s standards.

But looking at Morata’s rapid development, they had experience with how quickly the Arpen Kingdom could grow in other areas. Therefore they needed to find the perfect place for the Royal Palace where a city could thrive.

“It isn’t necessary to make the Royal Palace on a plains area.”

“Then...”

“I’ve been to these mountains and they are magnificent. The mountains are steep and rugged like Vargo Fortress. We can build the palace across the mountains.”

“A colourful and lavish Royal Palace built along with nature...”

“A structure overlooking a city.”

“Building the palace in a high place won’t be an easy or cheap task.”

“But it could be the best building. There is no need to consider cost reduction.”

The Royal Palace that symbolized the dignity of the Arpen Kingdom would be built on top of the mountains. Guild buildings and commercial areas would be established along the mountain while housing would be built on the plains. If the Royal Palace was built well then it would become a featured place to visit.

If Weed built a large sculpture near the palace then it would catch even more attention. A Royal Palace that represented the dignity of the Arpen Kingdom and the north was going to be born.

“There are several suitable candidates but they will take a while to be ready.”

“The people will start protesting. They want to start quickly.”

“Let’s design it quickly.”

“We will start night shifts from today.

“I wouldn’t do it even with my company paying overtime...I am happy to stay up all night if it is for the Arpen Kingdom.”



The Hermes Guild raised a large army. They weren’t satisfied with being the strongest guild on the Versailles Continent. They trained an invincible army in order to conquer the continent.

“The weapons produced by the dwarves?”

“The dwarf blacksmiths have created them without a problem.”

“The troops?”

“Their morale and training is the best.”

The troops in the Hermes Guild has been trained for a long time and were recruiting as well. An astronomical amount of income from the Haven, Kallamore, Lasalle and Britten Alliance Kingdom was invested into training their military. The elite soldiers were trained more than general

soldiers. No matter how much money they had, there was a limit to the number of residents that could be conscripted.

-A village has been wiped out by the Embinyu Church.

-The Rahest area has been devastated.

They spread rumours of the Embinyu Church as an excuse to conscript soldiers to a training camp. An enormous amount of money was consumed by the supplies and conscription so the burden on the Haven Empire was huge.

Lafaye held a meeting that 100 of the military commanders and top knights attended.

“This war is a crusade. And the Haven Empire’s march won’t stop until it unifies the entire continent.”

“When is the starting date?”

The border of the Haven Empire was touching several kingdoms. The empire was too big that not one kingdom could face them. Once the Haven Empire declared war, it was natural for other kingdoms to form an alliance against them. They would simultaneously invade at the borders.

When an alliance was formed, a considerable amount of time was required for them to gather their power. Their plan to win the war and prevent the alliance from taking action was a blitz attack. Once they gained the momentum, they believed there would be no one who could stop them.

“Everyone is excited by the success of Weed’s adventure so this is our chance.”

All the high level users knew that Weed was the first one to clear Roderick’s Labyrinth. The prestigious guilds failed even with the help of NPCs yet he accomplished it personally. He led the NPCs and pulled out their full ability so Weed’s leadership was praised even more.

Even the residents of rural villages on the Versailles Continent were talking about it as well as the broadcasting stations. It was to the extent

that programs about Weed were shown dozens of times. He was the person the users in Royal Road respected most so Weed's popularity was absolutely overwhelming.

“The people are interested in Weed right now. The attack will begin in 10 days as the army simultaneously moves to the border.”

The war plans for dealing with each kingdom were organized in advance. The elite troops prepared by the Hermes Guild reached a shocking 4 million. Troops from guilds they were secretly aligned with were also mixed in.



Time Sculpting!

The name gave off the feeling that he absolutely couldn't miss this secret sculpting technique.

“If the time in the world is stopped...”

He didn't know what would be triggered but he could imagine it. If he became worried then he could stop the world and move in it alone. A sculptor would carve radiant beauty based on their endless imagination.

“I would clear out a bank. No, first I would go to a department store and clear out the money and precious metals. Cash and gold would fill up the house so much that I'll never go hungry.”

If he had gold then he could laugh brightly even if he became injured. Weed kept reading Roderick's research records. It was good if Time Sculpting emerged but he was sensitive about the possible penalties involved.

【 I tried to complete Time Sculpting but a wall blocked me.

I didn't know how to stop the flow of time in the world. I came to the conclusion that there is no way to accomplish it. So Time Sculpting was given up for growing plants.

A plant that grew up to spread a luxurious aroma was also beautiful. It wasn't a sculpture but beautiful plants grew. 】

“No!”

Weed screamed. It was like suddenly ending up in a rice paddy.

【 Cultivating plants became a big art.

Plants would take root in barren land and give comfort to the people of the continent. Even in ravaged areas of the continent, the plants were able to be deeply rooted and grow.

Then a sculptor said.

“But what about once it becomes a flower?”

“Isn’t a flower beautiful even after it wilts?”

“Even farmers can cultivate plants...”

“We are exploring the aesthetics. Art will be created based on the plants.”

The debate about flowers and trees continued for 2 days. And someone said.

“Flowers will wither after only blooming for a few days. Isn’t Time Sculpting even more necessary so we won’t miss the beauty around us?”

“That is true.”

“But the difficulty...”

“Art and beauty isn’t just made. Everything has a cost.”

“Let’s go back to Time Sculpting.”

The sculptors had a considerable amount of knowledge and ability that were suitable for other fields. There were those well versed in geography, history, architecture, swords, magic etc. Versatile geniuses were gathered as they continued to study time magic.

And 10 years passed. The sculptors were obstinate and didn’t give up. They browsed through records of adventures, history books and magic theories. Passion of this degree was necessary to give birth to art. They were already the best sculptors. I asked them why they were so immersed in this research.

“There is nothing impossible in sculpting.”

“Throughout history...the art of sculpting has been steadily declining. Aristocrats prefer paintings over sculptures so one day I want to pass on to junior sculptors the way to express radiant beauty.”

We studied Time Sculpting but failed. But the various species including humans, elves and dwarves looked through all the recorded writings and finally found a clue.

Nodulle and Hilderun. The tale of lovers who tried to escape the limits of time so they could be together eternally.】

Roderick’s research records ended there.

Ddiring!

-Lovers of Borota Island.

Roderick’s research records mentioned a fact that is hard to believe.

Nodulle and Hilderun. Investigate the lovers who tried to escape the limits of time.

Roderick left several clues for this purpose.

Level of Difficulty: Final Secret Sculpting Technique Quest

Quest Restrictions: The quest will fail if you die.

Weed took several items out of the box that contained the research records.

Scroll to summon a giant fire golem.

Scroll to summon a meteor.

Borota Island map.

Story of stars in the night sky #73.

A compass that had stopped.

Keys to a residence on Borota Island.

Sands of time.

“Keheok!”

It was the magic scroll that caught Weed’s eye first. All he needed to do to make the magic scroll work was to rip it. Right now, there wasn’t a single user who could summon a fire golem.

Roderick had used it when he was resurrected and its combat power wasn’t inferior to Bahamorg’s.

“And a scroll to summon a meteor...I didn’t think it was possible. I can’t expect too much. It might be an animal or monster raised by an elf that is called that name. Inspect!”

Weed checked the scroll to summon a meteor.

-The Grand Magician Roderick has sealed his best magic ‘Meteor Summon’ in this scroll.

There were numerous failures when creating this scroll and it is a one of a kind Meteor Summon scroll.

Once the scroll is torn, a meteor will be summoned to hit the ground.

Precautions when Using: Once the magic is activated, it is impossible to cancel it in the middle.

Accuracy is very low.

Will devastate an extensive area.

“This is real.”

It was a genuine scroll and not a fake!

“I can summon it to destroy a castle.”

Weed could imagine what would happen if the Meteor Summon scroll was used in Morata. A red meteor with a long tail would streak across the sky to devastate a city. The buildings would collapse instantly and the people involved would die. Everything including the squares would be so destroyed that they couldn’t be recognized.

“I have to investigate these clues to obtain Time Sculpting.”

Weed heard the story from the inhabitants of Versailles Continent.

“The most beloved sweethearts? Nodulle and Hilderun.”

“They stayed together for eternity despite the opposition from their families.”

“The girl next door recently fell in love. It would be good if she met a gentle man like Nodulle.

The residents suddenly started talking about Nodulle, Hilderun and Borota Island. Adventurers were interested but they didn't know the location of Borota Island that the lovers disappeared to.



“Very interesting.”

Yoo Byung-jin was on the edge of his seat while watching Weed's adventure. He created Royal Road but didn't play it directly. He just felt satisfaction from watching the people in the world he produced.

“Would I feel sharper if I played Royal Road directly?”

The artificial intelligence showed Weed's movements through multiple screens and he observed closely. Surprisingly, Weed managed to survive most situations despite the location.

-The demon soldier Pioko is on the verge of death. 1,439 health remaining. Weed is attacking.

Text from the AI appeared as fast as lightning wherever Weed was. The teleportation itself wasn't a problem but Blink meant he might miss a demon soldier dying.

“Showing the best combat power...while directing the troops.”

It would be difficult for the paladins and priests to endure. There were a lot of demon soldiers and the Talloss waking up. Even if Montus and Roderick were fighting each other, it was a miracle the paladins could defend against the wave of attacks from the demon soldiers.

Of course, they had gained experience in the labyrinth but the intelligence and power of the paladins could be seen. Their cooperation with the priests, various blessings and their faith meant they could fight

the demon soldiers.

But the most important thing was their iron wall formation and the fact that it didn't collapse. The demon soldiers struck at a wall made of 3 layers of defence and the priests' healing and protection spells. Even the weak troops knew how to deal with the enemies.

The demon soldiers were strong but they attacked individually and were wiped out by the formation. The situation wasn't reversed through great tactics but excellent troops management and their defence ability.

The AI viewed the formation and organization of troops but judged there was little chance of failure.

“The paladins and priests are decreasing but they are handling the demons by fighting together.”

Weed was talented but the daring judgement and combat capabilities belonged to themselves. Weed had gained several skills, succeeded in adventures and accumulated fame so it was no wonder people were wowed by him.

“I don't even need to see the reactions on the continent to understand.”

Yoo Byung-jin only checked Astello Square. The first conqueror of the 8th labyrinth and the hero who slayed a devil!

“Ah, Adventurer Weed and Sculptor Weed, this continent sure is lucky.”

“It doesn't matter if the Embinyu Church runs wild since Weed will later teach them a lesson.”

“Roderick's Labyrinth! A hell in the human world and it was suppressed by Weed-nim.”

“I would like to hear a song about the adventure. A song written about the adventure in Roderick's Labyrinth will be able to gain significant popularity.”

Weed was such a splendid figure that all the residents and users on the Versailles Continent were talking about him.

So far Weed had succeeded in every adventure and there was a frenzy

whenever it was broadcasted. Weed was also the one who developed Morata and the northern frontier into what it was now.

It was to the extent that common sense was overruled and the indoctrinated Grass Porridge Cult formed. The Grass Porridge Cult was a group that the general public and users who lived in the north naturally joined. It was led by users with various levels of power.

The Grass Porridge Cult was a group in Royal Road formed on the power of grass porridge, not religion! The Grass Porridge Cult respected freedom, pioneering, adventures and culture. But when looking at it, their belief in Weed was no less extreme than the Embinyu Church. Beginners who started in the Arpen Kingdom and joined the Grass Porridge Cult willingly cheered for Weed and paid their taxes.

So far Weed hadn't acted as a ruler. He had just poured a huge amount of his personal fortune into Morata's urban development. And the users in the Arpen Kingdom were mainly responsible for domestic affairs.

But when looking at the overall picture, Weed's governing ability needed to be rated highly. He prepared distinctive squares when planning Morata and invested money into maintaining peace.

He constructed the Arts Centre to stimulate cultural development while the Grand Buildings increased the influx of users. The low taxes and high reward stimulated the pioneering spirit.

Despite the tenuous financial situation, they didn't spare any money on the buildings. The users' hearts were tied together by the large sculptures and the loyalty of the users who started in Morata was special.

The area around Morata was a wasteland but now everything had changed. The city gave off a feeling of never wanting to leave after entering it. Even if they went to a distant place while exploring the north, they would always return to Morata. Residential areas like the shanty village was important to instil the perception that the king cared about beginners.

The beginners who started in other cities and kingdoms were very poor. They had to save a while just to afford their own house. But users in

Morata and the Arpen Kingdom could quickly obtain a house. Even if the shanty village didn't have any facilities, it wasn't far from the city centre.

The shanty village that was a short distance away was a popular travel destination for users. The fact that it was an easy and cheap place to live in Morata quickly spread. Weed had changed the devastated Morata in the north to this.

“It is impossible that all of this was thoroughly planned. Anyway, it is increasingly worth watching.”

Yoo Byung-jin decided to watch comfortably. He waited for Weed to fail and become ruined. However, he still cheered when Weed fought and won against Montus.



The Dark Gamers actively supported the Arpen Kingdom.

Title: Unknown hunting grounds in the Arpen Kingdom.

Title: Come to Beard Dungeon. You can make a fortune.

Title: Level up? From level 300 to 400. This place is sufficient

Title: A place to acquire major items in the Northern Continent

The top users of the Dark Gamers Union explored the north and shared the information through the bulletin boards.

“Well, we should go here.”

“Even though the land prices is disgusting...this is the north. It is quite normal.”

“There is a reason those places are popular.”

The Dark Gamers scattered around the Versailles Continent gathered in the Arpen Kingdom. The Dark Gamers had various tendencies. They enjoyed dangerous adventures and made unexpected choices. The ones who were bards easily received information from the residents and formed hunting parties.

However, the majority of Dark Gamers preferred hunting silently. They

hunted and cleared out the location where the Arpen Kingdom's palace would be built.

“Selling an intermediate teardrop jewel necklace.”

“Please whisper if you find the Jipang enchanted magic wand.”

“Selling blacksmith materials. I have a considerable volume worth 5,000 gold.”

Advanced items were sold at the squares. Many weapons and materials were swept up by the Dark Gamers in dungeons. Dungeons in the Arpen Kingdom were being discovered one after another by the Dark Gamers.

General users also found some dungeons but the territory was too enormous and the peace unstable. They would encounter groups of monsters, traps or difficult demons and then experience death.

On the other hand, the Dark Gamers were familiar with dungeons and hunting. They thoroughly prepared by investigating the terrain and characteristics of the surrounding monsters before unearthing the dungeon.

Their transactions at the stores were absurd. Once they went to a hunting ground, they would bring back a backpack full of items. Of course, they needed to bring whetstones, food, exploration tools, trap dismantling tools, magic scrolls, bandages and other supplies when going to the hunting ground. They enjoyed the shacks, theatre and music performances as the tax revenue of the Arpen Kingdom increased.



After Weed survived the quest, he returned to Morata with the paladins and priests. The quest in the labyrinth was finished so he went to visit the Church of Lugh and the Freya Church.

“My achievements would be cut a lot.”

The fact that he successfully conquered the labyrinth didn't comfort him. The audience watching through the broadcasts admired Weed's charisma and leadership. His command of the troops perfectly matched

the flow of battle.

His keen eyes that seized the opportunity to win while leading his troops was worthy of praise. Weed had many skills but the most feared was his leadership ability.

“Weed can beat any quest along with his subordinates.”

“Yes. He is strong by himself but nothing is impossible when he leads his subordinates.”

“He won’t let them die carelessly.”

“He thinks of human lives as precious.”

Those were the reactions after watching the broadcasts.

“I would like to become part of a hunting party led by Weed the God of War.”

“Really, his expeditions would be composed of high level players.”

“Until now I’ve only talked about Weed-nim’s adventures but I wish I could accomplish something like that.”

It was fortunate that they didn’t know Weed’s inner thoughts.

‘I need to complete the quest at all costs, even if it means using bait...’

Weed arrived in Morata and walked along the main street. The best city in the north where magnificent buildings were built! Normally this road was crowded with merchant carriages and people.

“Ooh, congratulations!”

“Hooray for Weed-nim!”

“I knew he would come back successfully!”

Users were standing on the side of the road and blowing pollen. They knew Weed would return to Morata so they waiting with petals from wildflowers. Weed received pollen, petals, claps and shouts of joy as he walked along the street.

It was the thrilling march of a great victory!

People from the Grass Porridge Cult had organized the event. Beginners stood on the rooftops and walls to watch Weed who was like their idol. Even the shacks on the hill was crowded with people wanting to see Weed. The welcoming crowd that paralysed Morata was indicative of Weed's popularity.

“Preparing things like this...”

There wasn't a happy smile on Weed's face.

“How much taxes could've been collected if they hunted during this time?”

But other than Morata, there were taxes from 20 cities in the kingdom. Quests and trading occurred so the kingdom was growing steadily.

The northern kingdom was so large that there was plenty of room to expand. Weed finished the welcoming ceremony and visited the Church of Lugh. The High Priest was waiting for him.

“I heard news that you finished a tough and serious adventure.”

“It is nothing. The paladins of Lugh helped block the enemy threatening the peace of the continent.”

“A lot of blood flowed but peace isn't free. The experience of the paladins are necessary for the development of a religion. And the children growing up in the Church of Lugh will defend justice with their swords.”

Ddiring!

-Contribution to the Church of Lugh has decreased by 892.

The Church's fame and honour has increased.

Missionary actions will be actively carried out and the number of believers will increase.

The senior paladins that have accumulated large experience can receive new quests.

The contribution was reduced more than he thought. The surviving paladins were promoted. Many new quests would arise in the Church of

Lugh.

Demon Clean-up of Pomullan Island.

Missing Person Idein.

Destroy the 3rd Base of the Embinyu Church.

Wrong Sacrifice.

Quests with A and S class difficulty! This qualification was given only to Weed.

“There are many places around the continent that requiring protecting to ensure peace. Then I will meet you again at the next opportunity.”

“Lugh’s blessing always be with you.”

Weed’s circumstances meant he couldn’t do the religious quests right now so he just exited. And he visited the Freya Church.

“I was able to come back safely thanks to the protection of Goddess Freya.”

“The damage is too big. We believed in Weed-nim but...”

The High Priest of the Freya Church reprimanded him. It was inevitable since most of the priests belonged to the Freya Church. His reputation was forced to drop because a lot of priests were killed in battle.

“However, it is fortunate that Weed-nim survived and returned. I look forward to the work you will do for the religious societies from now. And it is good that Alveron has returned to the Freya Church with a great deal of experience.”

Ddiring!

-The value of your achievements with the Freya Church has decreased by 2,493.

The blessings and grace of the Freya Church in the north has decreased.

Due to the large sacrifice, the activities of the priests in the Freya Church will decrease.

He had amassed higher achievements in the Freya Church compared to the Church of Lugh so that wasn't a big problem. Currently the Freya Church was the main religion in the Arpen Kingdom. But if many priests died then there were many penalties like decreases economic activities and adventures.

“Anyway, this part has been resolved.”

Weed now needed to find the last secret sculpting technique.



The Haven Empire made an announcement the day the Imperial Palace finished construction.

<For a long time, we stopped and watched while hoping for peace. But our peers in the continent wasn't satisfied.

The endless fighting over territory allowed the Embinyu Church free reign! The places where users can stay comfortably is becoming increasingly smaller.

This isn't what our Hermes Guild wished for. We have the power so we should take responsibility.

The Hermes Guild has decided to stabilize the continent. Those who don't understand may blame us but there will be even more extreme chaos on the continent if we do nothing.

Courage isn't just needed to fight against monsters or the enemy. It is standing up to correct a wrong. That's what true courage is.

The Hermes Guild will use this spirit to defend the peace.>

They used the justification of a moral duty to declare war on the entire continent! It wasn't a bluff as a war started on all the borders of the Haven Empire. They broke through the border garrisons of the other kingdoms.

The elite members of the Hermes Guild led their knights and troops into the other kingdoms. From now on, they didn't care about revealing the hidden power they built up to the other kingdoms. And a battalion of 70,000 troops led by Rensullot moved towards the Arpen Kingdom.

The Hermes Guild's power had swelled greatly in the meantime. They intended to occupy the Arpen Kingdom who had defied them for a long time.

"They are finally coming."

"It was expected after their long silence."

The Versailles Continent wasn't surprised about the Hermes Guild's declaration of war. They were already viewed as bad guys. The Roam Guild, Black Sword Mercenaries, Lion Star Guild, Cloud Guild and remnants of the Black Lion Guild also moved quickly.

"The Hermes Guild really hid a large army."

"We've been making an effort to build up our military but..."

"We can't deal with those forces alone."

"Let's form an alliance."

The 5 guilds coordinated quickly. In the past, they had been part of an alliance with the Hermes Guild until the Britten Alliance Kingdom was invaded. When the Hermes Guild seemed to stop, the imminent alliance seemed to dispel. But internally they were still meeting.

-We have to fight against the Hermes Guild or they will conquer the continent.

-They are a strong opponent. Combining forces with others would be nice...

-We're close to the Hermes Guild so we will be in danger. Fighting against other competitors might weaken them.

The Black Sword Mercenaries, Roam Guild and Lion Star Guild agreed to strike the Hermes Guild. But while they were coordinating, the Hermes Guild declared war on the entire continent. They became a cohesive power to fight against the Hermes Guild.



"Having a war here is disgusting."

The farmer Miretas wiped off the sweat with a towel while wearing a straw hat. This shabby hat wasn't an ordinary item.

-Straw Hat with a Chicken Feather:

Durability 9/15. Defence 8.

A loosely woven straw hat.

In the past, the farmer Pulbons wore this hat to save the continent during an extremely lean year.

Restrictions: Farmers only.

Level: 430

Perseverance 1,200.

Options: When farming, there is a chance for Wisdom to rise.

Monsters will pay less attention.

Birds that sit on the straw hat can bring special seeds from distant places.

Rather than having vitality decline during physical labour, it will often increase vitality.

Can weather a storm for a long time without health decreasing.

Energy can be used to restore damaged land.

The likelihood of achieving a good harvest on cleared land has increased.

Can be repaired easily unless the durability is 0.

This was a unique hat that he accidentally obtained in the wastelands.

"I don't like that war is coming to the Arpen Kingdom..."

Miretas had the natural personality of a farmer. He enjoyed watching planted crops as the seasons changed. He had cultivated a large granary and fruit orchard in the Arpen Kingdom. He even installed an irrigation system to pull water from the river and he would have a good harvest for the next few years.

“Things I can do...the soldiers will need food to eat.”

Only King Weed could know the exact population of the Arpen Kingdom. The lords of each region couldn't combine the numbers to determine the exact population. Most of the land in the Arpen Kingdom was owned by the king.

However, Miretas could gain an approximate estimate of the population. Farmers were very sensitive about food production and its consumption. Prices would slump if there was too much food and conversely, people would starve if the food ran out.

The food consumption had increased by several times since he settled in the Arpen Kingdom. Humans, orcs, elves, dwarves, barbarians, avians and a variety of other species. There was also a tremendous influx of beginners into the Arpen Kingdom.

When a war started, rice was necessary for the military. The orcs were propagating at Vargo Fortress. They were a species with a quick growth rate as they often died and were born. Their growth system was completely different from humans.

When there were tough monsters or monsters disturbing the peace, the orcs would bravely stampede forward. The orc beginners would get rid of monsters and sell the items they acquired at Vargo Fortress. Vargo Fortress became a gathering place for dwarves, elves, orcs and merchants.

“Purchase bows from the elves! These bows won't be sold to just anyone. Only people with definite archery skills should come.”

“A steel glaive reliably made in Morata! If you purchase more than 600 then a discount will be given.”

“Baby orcs like dried deer meat. Stand over there and wait, Orc-nim.”

“These are dwarf exclusive high boots.”

The true power of the Arpen Kingdom was commerce. The merchants engaged in business and an increasing number of the orc population became armed. The orcs heard the news about a war and held a meeting.

“Chwik, it is a war.”

“Chwi chwit, how interesting. Things were very tedious.”

“I should ask the human and dwarven blacksmiths to get rid of rust on my glaive.” Chwi chwit!”

“We’re going to fight, cwit!”

The orcs were the first ones who wanted to fight. They knew very well the persecution the orcs would receive from the Central Continent. They couldn’t cross many checkpoints at the cities because they weren’t human.

The individual ability of the orcs weren’t strong but they had superior numbers so the ruling guilds didn’t want them in the area. The orcs would also reduce the number of monsters in the hunting grounds.

Of course, there were other dungeons available but the orcs were annoying and would consume a lot of funds. They regretted that behaviour after seeing the orcs propagating and destroying monsters around Vargo Fortress.

“Since the humans have fallen into a crisis, we need to fight together. Another reason is that they create delicious beer.”

“In order to protect the forests...we have to enter the war.”

The dwarves and elves were the same. All the species in the Arpen Kingdom decided to join the war.

Grass Porridge Cult! The group that represented the north also reacted to the Hermes Guild’s army.

“Those guys are coming to conquer us...we are willing to fight!”

“Huhu, I was waiting for this war to spread.”

“Let’s do it!”

In the past, they had helped end the war in Morata! At that time, most of them were beginners but now their numbers had grown to an impossible degree.

“Inform each unit to prepare for battle.”

“We need to rally a minimum of 40,000 people for each unit. Will that be possible?”

“The Toadstool unit doesn’t seem to be exploring dungeons...I’ll tell them.”

They started to gather participants for the war through the Grass Porridge Cult’s communication network.

“Hermes Guild...”

“Kill!”

“Join the war...”

“Let’s go!”

“Where should we gather?”

The notice was enough to persuade them without needing to carry on a conversation. Warriors in the north started to move out of the hunting grounds.

On the other hand, the users on the Versailles Continent who didn’t understand where talking about it in taverns.

“The Hermes Guild is really occupying the continent.”

“Well, they are very determined. How long can the alliance fight against them...?”

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