

The Legendary Moonlight Sculptor

(달빛 조각사)

Volume 40

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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: Internal Affairs of the Arpen Kingdom

Weed was at the Earth Palace! The northern users had used magic and swords to get to the Earth Palace.

“Is this really the Royal Palace of the Arpen Kingdom?”

“It is built really sturdy. It is also made to match the mountains really well.”

“Wah...there are signs of a huge construction!”

The king had finally arrived and for many northern users, this was the first time they had seen the Earth Palace. The users wanted to see Weed's face but he didn't come out after entering his office at the Royal Palace.

“It is good to be home. I worried so much about money after leaving home.”

He had left the Arpen Kingdom before the Earth Palace had been completed but the warmth made it feel like a home he had lived in for a long time.

Weed had been away for a long time and could finally feel the comforts of home. If Morata was like a 20 storey apartment then the Earth Palace would be like renting the penthouse of a 160 storey apartment!

“Perfect view and interior decor.... He could now understand the desire of rich people to live in a good house. It is too luxurious.”

Weed's heart was blacker than charcoal as thoughts filled his mind.

“I would be able to sell houses like this for a lot of money. Hmmm, a construction company would be good. Although the recession means there is no choice but to suffer. I should actively make a construction boom in the Arpen Kingdom.”

The driving force behind economic development was land speculation! The Arpen Kingdom had a large percentage of diverse professions than other kingdoms. It might be vulnerable in combat but it was superior in

production and art development.

If the Arpen Kingdom was given 3 years then the north would completely change.

The well-constructed cities surrounded by beautiful scenery, easily accessible roads that stretched across the northern continent like spider webs and a range of creative arts in the streets.

A fledgling kingdom strong in urban planning would actively cause changes. It was highly likely that the northern continent would continue to evolve along with the Arpen Kingdom and its people.

“Currently, the population of the Arpen Kingdom has significantly increased and the towns and cities are becoming enormous.”

Weed opened the Internal Affairs window of the Arpen Kingdom. There was a tingle of excitement and tension in his stomach. He hadn't felt this much excitement since fighting the Embinyu Church as a Warrior Saving the World or the undead legion as an ugly orc.

<Arpen Kingdom>

A kingdom that rules over a vast amount of territory in the Northern Continent.

The different flags and culture of the Arpen Kingdom has spread through the different terrains and climate of the north.

A country that annexed the territories in a peaceful manner through trade and culture. The territory includes most of the areas of the former Niflheim Empire.

The knights and residents carry out the king's orders with dignity and respect. Most of the inhabitants in the north believe that the king has been selected by the Goddess Freya.

The king and nobles have opened up paths and established the country with their own hands.

Among the incredible rumours about the king, he is a hero that performed missions for the gods of the Versailles Continent.

The inclination of the inhabitants of the Arpen Kingdom leans towards the pursuit of adventure, freedom and economic abundance.

A sense of satisfaction is felt from the arts.

Despite the invasion of an empire, the king has a diligent personality that inspires belief in him.

The birth rate has increased so rapidly that it is difficult to measure.

This particularly applies to the 400 male and female orcs that settled in the Arpen Kingdom.

Monsters are still around but the amount of security means they can't advance close to the cities.

Military Power: 7,390 Economic Power: 48,291 Culture: 42,092

Technology: 62,380 Religious Influence: 86 Kingdom Politics: 92

Impact on the Surrounding Areas: 97%

Development of the Kingdom: 79 Hygiene: 42 Security: 92%

Residents of the north are happy to belong to the Arpen Kingdom.

Clearing of the plains, wilderness, flood zones and redevelopment of abandoned mines are actively being pursued.

New products are created and the economy expanded.

Skilled craftsmen filled with pride manufactured advanced products and concentrated on expanding production.

Road construction is occurring everywhere and food shortages are decreasing as trade is freely growing.

Sometimes local, small cities are resistant to paying taxes.

“The Arpen Kingdom is amazing despite only having a short history! But if left unattended, the crime rate and thieves will increase.”

“The taxes have to be used properly as the country can't grow without proper support.”

“What is His Majesty doing? His achievements as a hero won't be any

use if a colossal amount of bandits are allowed to grow in the kingdom.”

The interest in the open sea means that the shipping industry was improving.

Maritime trade routes are becoming stable and fishermen will catch mysterious fish or hungry sharks when sailing.

Young farmers actively grow crops for several different species.

The orcs love devouring rice and wheat.

The value of coffee, tea and herbal medicine are increasing, building up the foundation of wealthy farmers.

Adventurers are finding traces of relics from the Niflheim Empire. Adventurers will also tell endless amounts of stories in the tavern.

The military power of the Arpen Kingdom isn't well known to the residents. They are mocked as coward for not taking action against the Haven Empire's invasion.

Monsters are constantly being subjugated at mountain villages or villages near the mountains.

Prestigious knights have gathered from all over the continent to worship King Weed of the Arpen Kingdom.

The radical urban development being accomplished causes the population to frequently gather for festivals.

Kingdom's Total Population: 38,291,029 Monthly Tax Revenue: 21,943,920

Kingdom's Operating Expenses:

Military 12% Technology Development 6% Economic Development 38%

Cultural Investment 6% Commissions and Monster Subjugation 14%

Road Construction 22% Religion 2%

Military: 4,939 knights, 9,720 training soldiers and 162,023 soldiers.

The army of the Arpen Kingdom was finally stepping out of the gate

with their shoulders straight.

The knights division mostly consisted of free knights and Vent Castle troops.

The soldiers gained levels and experience from subjugating monsters. At the very least, they learned how to use bows, swords and shields.

“This is my Arpen Kingdom!”

He had been away for a long period of time but his kingdom had continued to grow healthily.

Weed was satisfied with the income and other specific national power.

“It was raised well. It feels very rewarding. Excellent.”

The users living in the north frequently told absurd stories about the Arpen Kingdom’s development.

“A week ago, I saw a thatched house in the vicinity of Herot River.”

“Is that so? Yesterday I saw at least 500 shacks in that location.”

“What do you mean? I just came from Herot River and there was a medium sized town!”

“Hey, a friend of mine who is an orc just sent me a whisper from there.”

“The who one started just now?”

“That’s right!”

The population of the north was growing furiously so beginner users roamed the continent without hesitation.

Steady hunting was important for the novice users but they could dream of a jackpot in the north. They fantasized of finding the relics of the Niflheim Empire waiting for them in undiscovered dungeons. Land that had been vacant in the past became a base of transportation, adventure or production and a village was instantly created.

From Weed’s perspective, the Arpen Kingdom was like a growing piggy bank. It felt like owning a chicken farm that lay golden eggs.

“One day I will get a huge amount of funds...my retirement depends on this.”

A rice bowl that contained his retirement funds!

Just like most people, he was anxious about his retirement funds. This acted as his pension so he was worried about the Arpen Kingdom.

“If I can’t stop the Haven Empire then my comfortable retirement will end.”

Weed didn’t immediately rush onto the battlefield. The Haven Empire was waiting to strike but he didn’t bother going to see them. Furthermore, Pavo and the architects already started a task to block their route.

“The guests will have a hard time before coming. Military Status information!”

-Arpen Kingdom’s Military

Knights: 32,998

Average Level: 367

Soldiers: 187,390

Average Level: 194

Loyalty: 99%

Training: 89%

The King of the Arpen Kingdom is referred to as the ‘Hero who Saved the Continent.’

Free knights will respond to his righteous call. The knight have great pride and high morale despite running into danger.

The knights have decent equipment and ride tame horses to assault the opponent.

Soldiers have absolute loyalty. They will do anything for the king.

Soldiers will become more experienced by fighting against monsters and exploring dungeons.

The sky island Laviyas is roaming the Arpen Kingdom.

They refuse to bow to humans but are willing to become members of the Arpen Kingdom due to the special ties.

They will participate in a war breaks out.

There are a number of military strongholds. Many military fortress that used to belong to the Niflheim Empire, including Vent Castle require repair.

The walls are too weak. It will easily fall if a large scale battle takes place.

“Hrmm, the territory and population as increased a lot. Although the military power is almost useless compared to the Haven Empire.”

Weed had started with Morata in the north.

At the time, he had received protection from the Freya Church so he had decreased spending in the military in favour of faster economic development. As a result, the number of trained elite soldiers was low and there weren't many knights.

Even if a war broke out, troops were needed to prevent the invasion of monsters so only half the forces could be mobilized.

“But the new territory of Laviyas has value.”

The Arpen Kingdom had expanded over a large territory in the north but there wasn't much profit. Many villages and cities had been left in ruins after the fall of the Niflheim Empire.

The monsters ran wild and the small population that survived waited a long time for development. Money was required to secure the roads and walls, construction and urban renewal.

But the sky island of Laviyas didn't have to worry about monster invasions and could safely develop. It was a small kingdom itself with numerous dungeons.

“If the sky population joins then the possibilities are endless.”

The humans and avians had significantly different appearances. It was a complete likeness of a bird.

Humans, elves and dwarves had 2nd and 3rd areas of expertise but the avians had an amazing attribute.

Once they reached a certain level through hunting prey, they would make a breakthrough. Those that abandoned their old bodies could get the flesh of a new species. In addition, physical attributes like speed and height would increase.

Many people dreamed of becoming an avian and making a huge breakthrough but Weed didn't miss an important part.

“Every time a body is shed, new equipment is needed so it will cost a lot of money. Those with a hobby of keeping their equipment shouldn't become an avian.”

In Royal Road, people wanted to wear the best equipment possible that suited them. Functional and aesthetically pleasing equipment would instil more confidence on the adventures. The markets and shops in the cities were always crowded with people buying better goods.

Avians had a collective way of living and also paid attention to their appearance. Just like humans, they wore a variety of clothing designed for the beaks and claws, in addition to combat gear and accessories. The overall atmosphere could change just by wearing a new crown or necklace.

Some wore shoes while others like sparrows enjoyed walking on the land and feeling the soil and twigs. Avians who liked a cute or strong appearance were conscious of what equipment they chose.

Most of the equipment for avians were found in Lavias. They could fly so no matter how far away it was, the avians would head to Lavias to purchase goods.

The avians had private restaurants, inns and training centres on Lavias. Some restaurants even had grilled earthworm steaks with butter.

Some bird tribes had a natural homing instinct and would only come

back to Laviyas once or twice a year.

Laviyas was the hometown of the avians so it would continue to evolve in the future, making it a reliable place to obtain taxes from. Having the new territory of Laviyas would certainly increase the tax revenue of the Arpen Kingdom.

“A positive financial resource. Good. Very good.”

Ddiring!

-The Arpen Kingdom is being invaded.

Knights and soldiers will actively fight against the enemies trying to occupy the territory.

The sky island Laviyas has joined and the avians are burning with fighting spirit.

If you don't allow them to fight then there might be decrease in loyalty and morale.

Do you want to allow the avians to fight the enemy?

“Phew. These guys are better than nothing. I accept.”

-The kingdom's army is being lined up.

The avians and soldiers have high loyalty and treason is unlikely to occur.

Please select a place to gather the army.

“Earth Palace.”

-The army will move to that location.

The sky island Laviyas will move.

Your Majesty the King must choose a knight to command the troops.

The knights and soldiers that make enormous contributions in the battle can be upgraded to a noble rank.

Or the king can directly conduct the army.

“I can't trust anyone. I will direct them.”

-The king will command the army directly.

Soldiers will have incredibly high morale.

“The people of the north will also help the army. And the key to defeating them might be Time Sculpting.”

His act to save the world had left an intense impression on everyone. The level of this quest was unprecedented in Royal Road and he showed off a strong fighting ability. However, that was only in the warring period.

In fact, Weed’s level had been reduced after the quest and he was only level 419. Maybe making the sculptural lifeforms in the desert had a fatal impact.

Among the users active in the north, many had higher levels than Weed. The only thing they didn’t have was Time Sculpting.

But that was only one skill. After collecting all the secret sculpting techniques and many adventures, he had finally learned Time Sculpting! This was the first time someone in Royal Road had obtained the final secret technique so it was unlikely for anyone else to have a similar skill.

It was Weed’s only absolutely irreplaceable weapon.

He was looking forward to when intermediate Time Sculpting could stop the world. An infinite imaginative power and possibilities!

“It will be really special when that time comes. Time stopping will be a beautiful sight and it is a work of art that can destroy the natural order of the world. The best sculptor....ah, no. These useless art skills!”



The commanders of the Haven Empire’s army in the north gathered in a tent.

The commanders strong enough to cause an uproar anywhere they went on the Versailles Continent and they were ranked based on their combat capabilities.

In particular, Draka who was the commander in chief of the northern invasion had achieved numerous battle victories in Royal Road.

He received generous support from the Hermes Guild and was evaluated as one of the elite knights. Of course, Draka had a notorious reputation that caused any residents who heard the name to flee from their house.

“According to the news, Weed has appeared at the Earth Palace.”

“If we march at full speed then we can reach the Earth Palace in 3 days from here.”

“Those Grass Porridge fellows are slowing down our advance. Whether we reach the Earth Palace in three days or five days, everyone there will be slaughtered.

“Time isn’t a problem. Weed has appeared but he needs longer than a week to prepare for the war.”

“How about we wait for a week and see? The northern user at the Earth Palace have higher skills than those we’ve faced so far. If we finish them then we can truly defeat Weed and the north.”

The northern invasion army were already sick of facing the northern users. The users had large numbers but weren’t very strong so they were reminiscent of an ant swarm.

Once the northern users were hit by arrows and magic, they would then be smashed by knights and infantry.

This simple approach took time but had a definite effect. Their overwhelming strength led to continuous victories but the problem was that the enemy kept coming.

The Hermes Guild realized how deeply the north felt about this place.

‘It is like a mother bird defending its nest of young from a snake.’

The Haven Empire were the big snake while the northern users were the soft mother bird.

The reason that the users desperately sacrificed their lives wasn’t just because of Weed’s popularity.

The Arpen Kingdom was the last bastion left on the continent. Those who wanted the freedom to enjoy their lives were clear that they could

only do it in the north.

‘In order to have their freedom, they can’t leave this area.’

‘The last refuge will be swept away. In doing so, the unity of the continent will be achieved.’

‘We need to subdue them perfectly in order to ensure long term control over the north.’

Despite the fierce resistance from the north, the commanders were convinced that they would win.

Looting and land acquisition. They were waiting to enjoy the benefits of occupying a territory. A good number of the users and knights had participated in wars of conquest before.

“Have the leaders decided on a countermeasure for Weed?”

“I don’t care what command the guild leaders give. We will continue to march towards the Earth Palace.”

“If Weed has appeared then shouldn’t Bardray come like originally planned?”

“You know that the Abyss Knight has appeared in the Haven Empire... Weed is in the Earth Palace so there is a slim chance that he can get away. Currently they are more concerned about inside the empire.”

“Indeed...Weed can’t attack our invincible army without a lot of preparations.”

The Hermes Guild didn’t think that Weed and the north could defeat the current Haven Empire. The northern users had been overwhelmingly smashed so far.

Despite Weed’s personal ability, there was no way he could deal with the collective strength of the army.

“The forces of the Arpen Kingdom are limited...it might be possible to defeat them with just one of our units. Observe the movement of the troops for more information.”

“A lot of people are gathering at the Earth Palace. They will fight against us with Weed.”

“We can handle them. Weed might have great leadership abilities but he is used to directing NPCs, not users.”

“The Hermes Guild has conquered the Central Continent and are used to the organization and operation of an army.”

“Those who are scared or try to escape.... For the majority of the users, this is their first time at war. The north might be eagerly jumping at us now but they will start fleeing once there is a disadvantage.”

“We also have the ability to make public opinion move for us.”

“Well, isn't there a possibility they will run the moment they see the full force of the Haven Empire's army?”

War was on an entirely different scale from adventures.

The current Imperial Army contained users of the Hermes Guild and experienced NPCs. The Hermes Guild had secured the Haven Kingdom in the early days so the members were used to war.

When looking at the scale of a war, being able to command the army to move efficiently was important. The users with strong personalities found it hard to follow the battle tactics and strict discipline in an army.

The commanders needed to give commands that overrode individual thoughts and judgements. Sometimes general users without war experience would cause a defeat when victory was close.

On the other hand, an army configured with NPCs could maximize the effectiveness of battle tactics. It was difficult for even famous and strong users to withstand the concentrated attack of an army.

There were many other advantages to NPC troops. Despite needing to mobilize for dozens of days on missions to subjugate bandits, their loyalty would be maintained. Good commanders would maintain high morale and loyalty through training.

In the process of unifying the Central Continent, the consolidating of

the Haven Empire's military power meant it was difficult for any kingdom to face them. The huge investment early on meant they were easily mobilized for war.

This was half the core forces of the Haven Empire so they were confident about beating the Arpen Kingdom in the north. The current power of the Haven Empire's army was close to invincible.

This was the analysis for the north as well as the entire Versailles Continent. They wouldn't be able to stand up to the Haven Empire's enormous army.

"We will continue to keep an eye on Weed. And we will finish him up at the Earth Palace."

"It will be fine."



"Robin-nim, the Hermes Guild wants a talent like you."

"Well, I am with my colleagues so it is a difficult decision to make."

The hunter Robin was formally invited to the Hermes Guild. The tall, handsome and rich Robin who pursued Seo-yoon

In Royal Road, his level was beyond 400 and he wore the best equipment. The armour and weapon had splendid options by default and magic effects were always activated against monsters.

If anything was lacking then he would have blacksmiths and tailors add more diamonds. The gazes of other people would be filled with astonishment and envy when he walked through villages.

But unlike the actual power of his level and equipment, he was afraid every time he entered a dark and sombre dungeon.

Despite his profession as a hunter, Robin was never alone. He was always accompanied by at least 5 mercenaries consisting of knights and priests.

The hunting efficiency was good and they would receive compensation from famous dungeon quests! If there were dangerous situations with

monsters then the mercenaries would take care of it. Therefore, Robin hardly ever died.

“Wouldn’t it be an honour for the Hermes Guild if Robin-nim joins? Of course, your other friends are also invited.”

“Hrmm, the offer is good.”

Robin thought deeply about his future.

The Nice Guys Guild was famous in Royal Road. The children of wealthy families gathered in the Versailles Guild operated the guild as a hobby.

Despite the fight for supremacy among the prestigious guilds, the Nice Guys Guild were never involved. Just like Robin, they were overflowing with money and power so touching them would cause problems.

They had wide connections in Royal Road and could request retaliation against any slights. They sprinkled money recklessly and no one else could imitate them.

Actually, Robin and the Nice Guys had made quite a lot of requests to the Hermes Guild.

“I need a bow. The restriction is level 340.”

“The rating? And tell me if you have any specific options you want.”

“I would be satisfied with a legend rating. At the very least, it should be the best bow for my level.”

“You know that items like that aren’t common.”

“I don’t care about the price. Having an option to freeze monsters would be fine as well.”

They asked for weapons and armour regardless of the price or players and NPCs to act as guides.

Active users working as merchants were asked to deliver or trade goods. If there was a conflict with other users then they would pay money to have them killed.

The Hermes Guild didn't need to be hostile or stop them. If they did the requests then there would be a huge financial gain.

Currently the Nice Guys had a unique power on the continent so the Hermes Guild wanted to recruit them. By accepting the funds of those who were wealthy in reality, there would be mutually beneficial transactions.

“Recently I've been wanting to become a lord. If you give me a city then I will join the Hermes Guild.”

Robin recently had aspirations of becoming a lord.

Being a lord required a lot of effort to build up fame and achievements but the Hermes Guild's PR members readily nodded.

“Of course it is possible.”

There were many areas in the territory that the Haven Empire snatched that didn't have lords. The Empire controlled the city and they begrudgingly paid the taxes. Lords could become nobles in the Empire and were generously treated.

Robin was the son of a rich family so there was no question about his money. From the perspective of the Hermes Guild, Robin would use his money on the city if he was awarded a lordship. Therefore, there were many long-term benefits.

“I thought this was a big favour to ask but the Hermes Guild agreed.”

“The guild will actively help if Robin-nim has a request. Where we you like the land?”

“My dream is to become the lord of a city in the northern frontier.

“The north? But the occupation operation isn't over yet so it will be hard to maintain peace and order. Wouldn't it be better to develop a commercial free city?”

“The north has large potential sleeping. I am the oldest son of an entrepreneur so I prefer a place with potential rather than one that is already developed. My friends also prefer the north.”

“I understand. However, currently the area we’ve occupied in the north is only at the standards of a small village.”

“That makes it more attractive. I can completely renovate it from the ground up to make my own city.”

“Oh, I see that your perspective is different from mine. If you think you will be satisfied then we have a few areas.”

The Hermes Guild’s PR crew nodded. There were many areas in the occupied north where a large city could be built.

Rather than a city already finished, Robin would need to supply materials to build up the city so it would only benefit the Hermes Guild.

Due to the myth of Morata, many users wanted to be lords in the north. This was extra income for the Hermes Guild.



In Morata, there was a user called Seventh Rabbit that had an addiction to reading.

He liked to read any articles.

In reality, he was a 17 year old that read most of the published comics and novels.

The obsessed Seventh Rabbit was stuck in the library.

“Huhuhu, something like this happened. A fabulous quest. I can sell the information for 300 gold.”

He read books about history, geography, plants, quest events and anything that caught his eye. The combination of some information could be sold for money, to fulfil unresolved quests or to luckily find a treasure.

“Huh? Heroes in the Warring Period. This book wasn’t here a few days ago.”

Seventh Rabbit looked at a bookshelf.

[Heroes in the Warring Period #3

Countless heroes lived in the warring period. Local heroes lost their

lives while stronger warriors would emerge on the Central Continent.

Many ambitious kings tried to seize power until the invasion of the Pallos Empire from the south put an end to their lives.

During this time, the name of heroes could be counted on one hand. I can assure you that it includes Hestiger.

A warrior and well-mannered gentleman, he has no defects and is a perfect specimen. During the warring period, countless women who were nobles or commoners would soak their pillows with tears while thinking of him.

There are rumours that Hestiger handled any crime in the warring period. Hestiger didn't seek honour and power and only lived for discipline and justice. His strong mind was unshakable by cowardice, greedy or hedonism.

If it wasn't for Hestiger then the establishment of the Pallos Empire might not have been possible. Hestiger can be called a true hero that represents this era.

Other notable heroes include the absolute swordsman, Zahab.

He had exceptional art skills and wandered the continent. It is possible that there isn't one person alive today who can match his skills.

In the case of the emperor that emerged from the rough sands to establish the Pallos Empire, he is only a legend as many rumours spread about him.

These things aren't verified. He killed all knights against him and destroyed cities.

His cruelty transcended human limits so the academic community have presented a confident evaluation that this is just an exaggeration.

The Pallos Emperor didn't return after leaving on an adventure with the hero Hestiger so those rumours are lacking in objectivity.

Anyway, these are the heroes of that era.]

Chapter 2: Kill Without Asking Porridge

Unit

Lee Hyun sprinkled the seeds for lettuce in the field at his house.

“I can wrap pork belly in it later to eat.”

He could easily buy lettuce but then money would be wasted. Eating lettuce, sweet potato, potatoes etc. grown in his field felt good.

The Haven Empire was coming to invade in Royal Road so he didn't have a lot of time to spend in reality. He needed to establish countermeasures to stop them, raise Time Sculpting and recover the levels he lost in the quest.

Despite being busy, he made sure to spend 30 minutes taking care of the house. All the stress that built up would be cleared by cleaning.

Despite the stations depositing a large sum into his account, Lee Hyun's life didn't change.

“The most important thing is to earn money. A job like mine is unstable so I need to collect a lot.”

He didn't drink, go to a coffee shop or have any expensive hobbies like watching home shopping.

He saved his income. Once a lump sum was gathered, then he would invest it in land.

“In the future....I need to give my condolences. All the money spent on education and hospital bills.”

In South Korea, a lot of money was used to raise their children.

If they didn't want to fall behind others in this harsh world then it was important to be educated in maths, science and at least two foreign languages from a young age. Instruments such as the violin or piano should also be learned. In order to allow them to see the world, parents might send them abroad to study. There was also skating, shooting, horseback riding and golf.

The potential of children in South Korea was developed to its fullest! If the 24 hours in a day were divided into 10 minute units, most of their lives would be going back and forth to school.

Then there was the intense competition for university admissions and employment.

“Well, I’m afraid of the future. When looking at the television, it is getting hard to hear good news.”

Lee Hyun felt a tremendous sense of responsibility.

At first he thought a family was more of a burden than a happiness. Meeting someone was something that wasn’t possible in his situation.

His ideal type was a strong woman with vitality. A woman who could take care of business at the market as well as fry a crispy chicken!

Lee Hyun muttered under his breath.

“But I’m already in a relationship so I should take responsibility until the end.”

In the opposite garden, Seo-yoon was holding a rake and planting pepper seedlings.

A few days ago, he went hiking with her and then shared a deep kiss with her in front of the house. It was a sudden event but the kiss lasted for quite a long time.

In fact, for some reason all the street lights had turned off so there was no need to stop early. The background music playing in the background made it a very good atmosphere.

He intended to release her lips when the song ended. But after a brief hesitation, the next song started playing.

‘Eh, I don’t know. It feels good so I will continue.’

At least 6 minutes!

Lee Hyun’s thoughts became clear after he kissed her.

‘I have to take responsibility for the rest of my life. I finally have a good

woman so I should marry her.'

These days the world was different. Kissing occurred after meeting for a few days and there was even further progress.

Lee Hyun was old-fashioned in this aspect.

'My love life is over. Well...it is better to fall in love early since there are a lot of expenses in dating.'

He heard Seo-yoon's clear voice.

"Should I plant more?"

"There are enough peppers...change to planting carrots and cucumbers. It should be enough for 5 people to eat."

"Yes, I understand."

"After planting, mix it well with the fertilizer. Farming is fertilizer."

Seo-yoon was wearing comfortable sportswear while working in the field.

Lee Hyun was also clad in sportswear but he looked scruffy compared to Seo-yoon's brightness. She wore sportswear from a luxurious Italian brand.

If Lee Hyun knew the price of the expensive product then he would lose consciousness and be rushed off by the ambulance.

'It is good that she can wear sportswear. In the future, we will live a frugal life together.'

Lee Hyun and Seo-yoon lived next door so it was natural to eat meals together. Right now Lee Hyun was busy concentrating on Royal Road so she prepared the meals.

She naturally assisted at home and warmly raised Lee Hyun's animals. Dogmeat would wag its tail every time she came over to Lee Hyun's house. Half Seasoned Half Fried and the baby chickens also had their crest perk up. The puppies that Dogmeat gave birth to were wallowing in the sun.

He was enjoying a happy life but the slightest slip meant it might disappear.

‘I have to prepare methods to defeat those guys.’

Lee Hyun contemplated ways to stop the Haven Empire.

The users of the Arpen Kingdom would help but he couldn't rely on them. The Alkazar Bridge would block the Haven Empire's army for a few days but they would eventually reach the Earth Palace.

“A disaster is necessary and I should use Sculpture Resurrection. The best person to revive...damn, I really don't like him.”

He thought about the skills that could be used.

He had fought the Immortal Legion as the orc Karichwi. The terrain and aggressive subordinates meant they followed his commands without any doubts. Furthermore, there was time to prepare.

However, it was close to impossible to configure a strong chain of command with users. Even if the users made large scale preparations for war, there was no guarantee there weren't any spies from the Hermes Guild.

“Those fellows from the Hermes Guild won't be noticed. And I need to predict what actions they might take.”

Lee Hyun thought about the things that might occur in the future.

Strategies and tactics weren't a big deal. There were tips and tricks that could be used to solve a problem. In the case of a quest, a quick mind and using various skills were important.

Sculpture Transformation was a skill he used in many adventures. Blending into a crowd of opponents or changing species to maximize strength! However, Sculpture Transformation wouldn't be useful against the army of the Haven Empire.

In fact, the Hermes Guild was the worst opponent for him. They had a thorough plan and used their moment to quickly dominate the Versailles Continent.

Usually fictional villains would make a mistake by going slowly and giving the hero time to grow. But the Hermes Guild quickly secured important victories in the war.

Lee Hyun caused damage to them but when looking at the overall plan, it was only minor damage that didn't cause them any disruptions.

“Completely unexpected...well, there aren't any large changes to the army. And there are large plains in front of the Earth Palace.”

Lee Hyun was currently lying down in the yard with the warm sun shining down on him.

“Hrmm, a tactic that can be connected to a disaster...I should buy some things. They can be used.”

He decided to do a bulk purchase through Mapan. Of course, there were still some gaps. The Haven Empire was capable of massive ranged attacks so suitable tactics needed to be prepared.

It was necessary to change his battle approach.

“If I cause a large disaster while the northern craftsmen prepare rafts...no, many users would need to participate and the Hermes Guild would certainly notice. Well, hopefully I can obtain some things for free.”

Lee Hyun steadily built up battle plans for the area in front of the Earth Palace. He questioned how much progress there would be but he had to try it anyway.

“I just settled a long quest and now there is a war. Will it be easier once the war is finished? Honestly, I don't have high expectations.”

Later that night, Lee Hyun assembled old parts and turned on the computer. There was the sound of the old fan blowing as the computer started operating.

Lee Hyun wrote a post on the Dark Gamers bulletin boards.

It was understandable that the Dark Gamers took a neutral stance in the war between users. Even if Lee Hyun asked them for help, they would only become mercenaries if there was enough profit.

It was useless at the moment. The Dark Gamers would judge what was profitable based on information from the bulletin board.

“Well, I don’t know how many will appear but there is a dining table prepared for them.”

It was a post that only the top rated Dark Gamers could see.

And after that, he went to the homepage of Royal Road and sent an email to a user.

The architect users of the north. Pavo was on his friends list but he also needed to commission other renowned architects.

“In the worst case scenario, I can’t hand the Earth Palace over to them.”

He would break it before giving it away!

“It would be a tremendous spectacle.”

He was determined to win the war against the Haven Empire but contingencies were necessary. He could only hope they weren’t needed. He would rather destroy the castle then lose it.

“And what about the forces that were defeated by the Hermes Guild?”

Lee Hyun also sent mail to the leaders of the 5 prestigious guilds. It was a brief suggestion to join forces. In order to get rid of the juggernaut that swept through them.

A few responded but it was unknown if anything would come from it.

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

Hwaryeong, Bellot, Maylon, Irene, Romuna and Surka were tired.

Normal people wouldn’t believe it. The girls had tired bodies because they had been shovelling at the earth!

Romuna’s shovel hit something firm.

-Uhihihihihi! Human, thanks for freeing me. In return, your flesh....

“Noisy. Fire Time!”

-Keeek!

Romuna used fire magic to get rid of the ghost.

Bellot dug at the ground with both hands. Her face was a mess as it was covered in mud.

“What is it?”

“Nothing big. Just rusted armour.”

Weed’s hidden treasures from the Pallos Empire were buried in a lake. They thought it would be piled up in a cave and shining bright and gold. Of course, it would be good if there were relics from the Pallos Empire as well.

But the reality was that the treasures were hidden in a lake that dried up and became a mudflat.

Ddiring!

-You have excavated old relics and fame has increased by 450.

If the relics are restored then additional fame can be gained.

-The title ‘Excavator of Hidden Land’ has been obtained.

A rare title that can be obtained by digging the ground for 15 days.

Digging speed will become 3% faster.

Affinity to the earth has increased.

Romuna wiped the sweat from her forehead and spoke to Bellot.

“Phew, now I have the title Excavator of Hidden Land.”

“We are being rewarded after acting as human moles.”

Only girls had been digging but there was already a pile of treasures in the corner.

The treasures of the Pallos Empire had been buried for a long time so the sword and armours were rusty and needed to go through a purification ritual.

Therefore Irene used her divine power to purify the items while digging.

-Kyahahahah! I’m finally free! Being chained to this infernal sword for

all these years....

“Bubi bubi dance!”

“The ghost is moderately strong. Yahap!, beating!”

Hwaryeong and Surka also participated in the ghost hunting. The beauty with a perfect body did the bubi bubi dance while Surka continuously used her punch attacks.

“Iyahahap! Heavy Blow Vortex!”

Surka’s fists of lights dealt a powerful blow to the body of the ghost.

-Ohuhuhu, it hurts. The ghosts that had been waiting a long time for revenge on the humans disappeared in vain....

Most of the treasures of the Pallos Empire had grudges attached to them. They had changed owners many times in the warring period. The ghosts had become stuck due to that environment.

Rowdy ghosts! The ghosts were dangerous but they just died after being excavated. The group dug all day for treasure but sometimes the ones that emerged were a failure.

But they recalled Weed’s words of encouragement before going to find the treasure.

-In the old days, our ancestors were absolutely brilliant. They eventually left this earth behind. But look.

There are many rich people in our country. There are a variety of treasures from the Pallos Empire to be discovered.

The hardest swords and armour. If they can be well restored then they can be sold for an expensive price.

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

“Ahem, the army of the Haven Empire is definitely strong. The taste of a fight, Geomchi-5.”

“The taste of wielding my sword after a long time, Teacher-nim!”

Geomchi organized his disciples in the northern areas occupied by the

Haven Empire.

[Kill Without Asking Porridge Unit]

They worried for one day and night before narrowly deciding on the name.

“This is unusual and nice.”

“It suits us perfectly Teacher-nim.”

“Life shouldn’t be complicated. Or my head will hurt.”

“Being simple and ignorant is the best!”

A name that meant they would unconditionally kill without asking!

The Haven Empire placed soldiers in the occupied northern territories for long term governance.

Originally, the traffic in this area was slow so the villages weren’t as developed. It was easy for the Haven Empire to expel the northern users and conquer the villages.

“What type of rubbish village is this?”

“The urban planning is a mess. Just burn it and take away the residents.”

“There are many mines nearby in the surrounding area. The slaves can quickly increase productivity. The development would turn it into a gold mine.”

The lords that settled in that area brought a large number of slaves from the Central Continent. The slaves were residents of the kingdoms conquered by the Haven Empire.

After having all their possessions on the continent taken away, they officially became slaves. Among the slaves were professional merchants, artists, blacksmiths, magicians and even combat professions like gladiators. The low management and slave engineers that managed to run away meant there actually weren’t that many slaves in the war between kingdoms.

However, the Haven Empire had a strong military force and turned many residents into slaves. The slaves were brought to the north to develop the area.

“Let’s go, everyone.”

“We will punish and kill them all. Hiyah!”

Geomchi-3 rode a bull in the front. And the reliable Sahyungs followed. Geomchi and Geomchi-2 each led troops comprised of 150 students. Geomchi-3, Geomchi-4 and Geomchi-5 led the remaining 200 students.

“Ambush from the enemy!”

“Ring the emergency bell!”

The enemy inside the wooden fence hurriedly rung the bell in order to signify there was a surprise attack.

“Shake them off!”

“Fight without asking questions. Smash everything!”

Ummooooooooo!

Geomchi-3 rushed towards the wooden barrier while shouting. And the troops of the Haven Empire hastily fired arrows above the barrier. More than 100 arrows headed towards Geomchi-3 in the front.

“Times like these are the most interesting. Go!”

Geomchi-3 wielded a sword in both hands like a windmill. It was an amazing technique that caused the swords to rotate and hit the arrows.

The swords struck the arrow.

It was originally a warrior’s skill but Geomchi-3’s troops all learned it. If they learned it until master level then the pair of swords would be raised one level higher.

A martial artist could easily learn combat techniques or created different combinations themselves.

If the skill level of individual weapons reached master level then a skill could be created and their attacks would steadily increase. A myriad of

master combat skills for the sword, spear, bow, axe, club, hammer, mace, shield and armour! It could produce a blow similar to Black Knight's Strike or Power of Birth.

These master skills could then be bestowed to their disciples. Of course, that was only possible if they had a complete understanding of the technique. In other words, they could only pass it onto others after fully mastering the skill.

“Uhahahaha! This taste is really delicious!”

Geomchi-3 laughed as the arrows bounced off his body. His strength would weaken when he got older but right now, he demonstrated his exceptional fighting skills.

“Sahyung, let's go together.”

“Good!”

Geomchi-3, Geomchi-4 and Geomchi-5 rode their bulls together in the front. Stray arrows passed by their ears and a large dust cloud rose up.

The archers were scared and hid their bodies behind the barrier.

They were now 10 metres away from the barrier.

“Smash into them. Heavy Strike!”

“Hmm, this much....one point attack!”

“There is no need for anything else. It is just crashing against wood. Take this!”

The instructors strongly struck the barrier with their weapons. Then the barrier was shattered and torn. The residents and even the knights and soldiers were in a state of panic.

“The knights are mine!”

“Sahyung, the owner will be the first person to catch them.”

“We should handle the soldiers before it is too late.”

Geomchi-3, Geomchi-4 and Geomchi-5 attacked after penetrating through the barrier.

The knights of the Haven Empire. The knights were loyal to Emperor Bardray but now they were just tasty prey. The students also found the soldiers enjoyable.

“It is too quick.”

“I don’t want this taste to end too early.”

“Let’s clean this up quickly and go somewhere else.”

Geomchi and the students had continued working on their class quest.

The Weapons Mastery quest still wasn’t over. They could choose to become a truth seeker or martial arts teacher.

A martial arts teacher had an unmatched ability to teach their disciples. Teachers could transfer their skills to NPCs or users.

On the other hand, a truth seeker didn’t teach anyone. They also couldn’t get honour. A human body could become strong so they used martial arts to cultivate their strength in nature and remove any fear of death.

And a merchant user of the Haven Empire surrendered.

“If you spare me then you absolutely won’t regret it.”

“.....”

It was rumoured that merchants became more talkative when surrendering!

“I have a total of 4,298 gold bullions so I will give if all to you and leave the north if you spare me.”

“.....”

Even a non-combatant merchant user would find their lives precious. If they lost their lives then their trading and accounting skills would fall. A high level would receive really big damage so they didn’t want to die in a place like this.

Geomchi-101 examined the merchant in silence.

“In fact, I have 3 more gold bullions in the business fund. I will give

everything.”

“.....”

“Whatever you want to trade....”

“.....”

“I really have no more.”

Seokeok!

-The unscrupulous merchant Donjulle has died.

Fame has been obtained among the slaves exploited by Donjulle.

The merchant was executed by Geomchi-101.

“.....”

He was able to loot an addition 5 gold bullions from the merchant. People always prayed that merchants would drop expensive items but such cases were rare. The only items attached to merchants were ones they wouldn't mind losing in death.

Geomchi said towards his students.

“I'll tell you this. There better not be anyone here willing to accept wealth in exchange for those cowards lives. You will forever carry a shameful face.”

“Of course we can't do that, Teacher-nim!”

“We just need to kill everything.”

“Truly wise.”

“This is justice. It is a perfect morality, Teacher-nim.”

The policy of the Kill Without Asking Porridge unit was determined. No soldiers of the Haven Empire were left behind as the slaves tied with rope shed tears.

“The ones who harassed us finally died.”

“Even so, we can't go back home. We can only live by following a new owner.”

“Our kingdom has already disappeared. We will live according to the will of the rulers.”

-2,609 slaves have been acquired.

You must determine how to handle them.

If you own the prisoners then you can increase wealth through hard labour.

Or you can give the prisoners freedom.

Including Geomchi-3, all members of the Kill Without Asking Porridge unit were knights of the Arpen Kingdom.

It wasn't their occupation but they were knighted. Knights of the Arpen Kingdom could lead soldiers, carry out wars, conquer and absorb enemy territory and even dispose of prisoners of war.

Geomchi-3 nodded and said.

“Just take care of your own lives.

-Do you want to free the prisoners?

The decision cannot be reversed.

Those who are freed will strongly oppose going back into captivity.

“Eat if you are hungry and sleep if you are sleepy. Take care of the money you earned. It is hard on the body of the prisoners of war....”

-2,609 people have been freed.

1,920 fame has been acquired.

Intimacy will the freed people will rise to the highest level.

“Thank you very much. We were brought here without any consideration so thank you very much. We will become residents of the Arpen Kingdom and be loyal to His Majesty the King and all the knights.”

“Come! We are heading to the next place.”

Geomchi-3 climbed onto his bull.

“Sahyung, there are 5 villages in the area so today will be very busy.”

“Teacher-nim doesn’t like being idle. Go quickly!”

Geomchi-3 and the students rode towards another settlement of the Haven Empire.



The leaders of the Hermes Guild in the norther occupied territories had serious concerns about the actions of the Kill Without Asking Porridge unit.

“We can’t afford to leave those fellows alone. It isn’t on a large scale yet but it will be difficult once more join them.”

“The guild leaders should quickly quell this. But the leaders in the Haven Empire will just consider them a funny story.”

“But so far they’ve only caused minor damage. Will the core leaders really worry about this?”

“The terrain characteristics are very different from the Central Continent.”

“Yes, I’ve also had that problem.”

In the Central Continent, there were many fortresses so they could stabilize the area.

The prestigious guilds were composed of users so once a defeat occurred, there were serious internal splits. Who was good or bad and who was behind the defeat. The complaints piled up until they exploded.

The Hermes Guild would target the important people at that time and the guild would dissolve. The ability to resist would disappear and the Haven Empire could firmly conquer the territory.

In comparison, the north had large meadows where horses could run for hours. Even after the conquest, the settlements weren’t cities so they were difficult to keep.

In other words, the resistance army could move around on horses, other users would actively join and security would worsen. The occupied territory needed to be secured so they felt the need to respond to it

strongly.

“We will dig pitfalls in the settlements.”

“That is insufficient. We need to annihilate their mobility with one strike. Their numbers are small but it will be difficult.”

“Should we direct the knights from the 5th army division to the occupied territories? The remainder of the army will continue marching towards the Earth Palace. They can return quickly and aid in the battle at the Earth Palace.”

“Good. I was getting bored.”

The commander in charge of the 5th knights division was Banrommel. He was determined to destroy the Kill Without Asking Porridge unit.

Chapter 3: Abyss Knight and the Hermes Guild

“Huhuhuhut, I am the number one archer in the north, Pale!”

Pale looked towards the cloud of dust where the Haven Empire’s army was gathered.

A group of high level users in the north had gathered to face the invincible army trying to take over the entire Versailles Continent.

“We won’t stand a chance with a frontal attack. We can kill a few fellows one on one but there is no chance against an army.”

“Then let’s stick to the outskirts.”

“Don’t the Hermes Guild have many people just as strong as us?”

“A huge army like that won’t have a perfect defense. We can see some gaps. They will become larger in the eyes of a ranger.”

“I agree. This will be a fun hunt.”

The best rangers, archers and magicians in the north had ventured out for combat. The news wasn’t widespread so only 200 people had joined

They waited quietly on top of the hills as the Haven Empire’s army passed by. The scouting troops had passed and now it was the central group of the army.

If the northern users’ location was discovered then it would be instant death. The whole area would be devastated by the huge magician units riding in carriages.

There were many soldiers in the Haven army. There was also a variety of monsters, beasts and special forces.

It was mainly magicians and archers that participated in the battle against the north but troops were fully mobilized in order to occupy the area.

There were a variety of kingdoms in the Central Continent where many

species lived but they also had the ambition to suffocate the north.

“Please, please. This life will be saved today. Kill for the dignity of the Grass Porridge Cult.”

Some of the Grass Porridge Cult members were also there.

“Now.”

And finally, the troops composed of ordinary soldiers moved into their view. Many of them were elite soldiers of the Haven Empire that had experienced a lot of war.

“Then load your weapons.”

The archers pulled out their bows and arrows. They loaded the arrows without protesting and waited.

“Fiery Pebble elemental summon!”

“Xing xing, I am here.”

“Let’s bury the enemy.”

The elementalists summoned the spirits and attached them to the arrows. Once the help of the spirits was received, the power and characteristics of the arrows would increase.

“Shoot all at once. Fire!”

Syu syu syu syu syuk!

The archers shot from the hills as the arrows penetrated the troops of the Haven Empire. Skill, arrows flying on the wind!

A skill that increased the distance of ranged attacks by 50%.

“An ambush by the enemy!”

“From the direction of the hills back there!”

The archers from the Haven Empire identified the enemy positions and counterattacked but their arrows didn’t reach the hill.

There were differences in the skills and equipment but the Haven Empire’s archers were firing against the wind towards the northern users

who were on a higher terrain.

“A great opportunity. Shoot as much as possible!”

“I don’t have time to talk right now. Pour out the steel arrows....”

The archers moved their hands as quickly as possible. They utilized their rapid fire and penetrating skills.

Normally the accuracy would decrease for long range attacks.

The long range attacks were mainly useless but now the archers could use them energetically. Now they didn’t need to worry about being hit by anyone in the vicinity.

Unfortunately, the soldiers had armour and shields so they didn’t lose their lives from one or two long range arrows.

The wide area archer skills such as burning, freezing or exploding weren’t used. However, the effects of the elemental spirits meant the arrows could exert a similar power.

The soldiers of the Haven Empire were hit by multiple shots and lost their lives. The users of the Hermes Guild leisurely advancing gave an order.

“The soldiers are taking care of those guys too slowly. Knights, control them immediately!”

“Eagle Knights, march!”

Dust rose as the knights of the Haven Empire sped into action. The Hermes Guild users with tremendous skill were among them.

“Hurry up and shoot. Don’t let them come closer.”

At this point, the arrows fired by the north targeted the knights.

“This isn’t causing enough damage so we need to increase our power.”

Penetration, poison and whirlwind. The arrows fired from the bow were so strong that half of the knights fell from their horses.

The knights’ strong defense meant they weren’t easy to kill but they would be unable to fight for a while.

“Those guys are coming closer.”

“Enough damage has been caused so let’s go.”

“Good!”

The northern archers completed their mission so they carried their bows and quickly withdrew. The knights chasing found armoured knights among the northern users.

“Who do those guys belong to?”

“They seem to be the knights of Miyaba. Before Miyaba Principality fell, the minimum level of the knights was 400.”

“I didn’t realize they moved up to the north.”

The northern users ad felt the terrible power of the Haven Empire’s magician units. If they came closer then it would be death. However, if the knights chased after them then they could fight.

“Like thorns stuck between the teeth. It will just be a burden if we go too far away from the main army.... We will wipe them out at the next opportunity. Withdraw.”

The knights of the Haven Empire eventually chose to retreat.

“Hooray!”.

“Kuh, this taste!”

“We did it!”

It was small damage as only 1,000 people were killed but the northern users rejoiced. So far, millions of people had died in the north but the Haven Empire only received small damage as 100,000 were killed.

A constant losing streak!

However, more users in the north were scrambling to participate. Moreover, many users that had been living in the depths of the dungeon started to emerge.

“That is...if my eyes are mistaken, that is the red skirt worn by the bard Skolla-nim!”

“Eh, that man is the one who kept on hitting wind monsters...he appeared on a broadcast 2 years ago!”

In the early days of Royal Road, there were many well-known users who experienced death at the hand of the Haven Empire and wandered around.

They developed unique hunting styles or techniques in Royal Road and quietly migrated to the north. They were already disillusioned by the fierce power struggle in the Central Continent. Quests and hunting were all tied up by the Haven Empire.

They migrated to the north where they could live freely. Anger towards the Haven Empire boiled up inside them as they finally started to make a move.

They joined the norther users and set out to fight for Weed’s Arpen Kingdom.

Haven Empire and Weed.

If it was just a matter between those two then the residents wouldn’t participate. Morata was only one city that had too many users living there.

But the Haven Empire had already conquered the Central Continent so if they captured the north, there would be no place on the continent to live freely.

To them, Weed and the Arpen Kingdom had become a great focal point.

“Our hope is the archer Pale-nim.”

“If he hadn’t shown us....”

“I saw him shooting a bow. Almost a 100 metres back and it pierced two or three times.”

“Amazing skills.”

Pale was praised by the northern users.

‘I suffered through a proud life but now people are looking at me with proud eyes.’

Although he started Royal Road a little late, he suffered while accompanying Weed around. The skills, stats, and japtem acquired during the encounters made everyone admire his skills.

-No, I am no different from a dog....! Wasn't I strong when I started in Rosenheim Kingdom?

-I grew conventionally just like everyone else.

-I can't believe I've been using a plain arrowhead until today! If poison is used on the arrowhead then hunting efficiency will increase. I should at least fire some poison arrows.

-Weed-nim told me. Hunting isn't something for the head. It needs to be repeated with the body. Don't just use my head to catch monsters and fight comfortably. And it is good to spend money to buy a better item.

-The level of skill is terrific.

-It can be called grinding the basics. This is also something I learned from Weed-nim.

Pale had appeared on previous broadcasts with Weed so he was famous in the north.

All eyes turned towards him whenever he entered the city carrying an elves' bow. Pale didn't know what the people watching him were thinking.

'An influential person.'

'I can recognize him with one glance. I can see the glory of Pale-nim directly.'

'Good looking. Tall.'

'Kyah, the stylish way he is carrying that bow!'

Pale led the northern users in the fight. He didn't join his colleagues in finding the treasures of the Pallos Empire as he thought this was more rewarding.

He demonstrated excellent skills in battle and was recognized by the

people he led.

‘This is a man’s romance.’

A rotten smile that resembled Weed’s appeared on his face. And all of a sudden, he received a whisper.

-Pale-nim.

-Ah, Weed-nim!

Pale was startled and replied.

“What, he is receiving a whisper from the God of War Weed-nim?”

“Iyah, an answer! As expected, Weed-nim frequently sends whispers to his colleagues.”

The users over level 430 greatly admired him. No matter how high their level was, it wasn’t easy to become friendly with Weed.

The news about Weed’s whisper quickly spread through the surprised crowd. Weed’s reputation was enough to make a river out of soju in the north.

-Where are you now?

Pale replied in a manly tone.

-I’ve fighting the army of the Haven Empire near Nur Plains. I’m using arrows for ranged attacks. The knights were very dangerous so it was quite suspenseful.

He expected Weed to give some form of thanks or praise.

-Hmmm, so you’re not particularly busy. I will send Yurin towards you. Can you wait a short moment?

-Of course. Weed-nim has returned from a long quest so there must be a celebration. I’ll pay!

-We’re going hunting instead of celebrating.

-Huh? Already? Talking about hunting as soon as he returned.....

Weed had a wide range of view and could identify the characteristics

and actions of monsters. When fighting with difficult monsters, there were moments when they almost lost their lives.

Instead, his colleagues felt glad.

‘It won’t be too bad if I die.’

‘I-I want to rest.’

‘This is hell hunting. This place is hell.... I won’t do bad things anymore and will live a good life.’

He got goose bumps after receiving the hunting invitation.

-Well, I’m quite busy....after next day or two.

-It is quite fast so it was only take a few days.

-I’d like to fight the Haven Empire when they arrive at the Earth Palace. If we come back a little bit late...they might come sooner.

-There is no way I can hold them. It is possible that we might come back late.

-Well, I hope so. No matter what my mind thought of, it didn’t work.

The devastating whisper ended and Yurin showed up. Pale’s activities were being broadcasted so she didn’t need to have the surroundings explained to her.

“Hello. I will quickly take you to Oppa.”

“Yes, I’m off.”

Pale’s shoulders slumped as he left together with Yurin.

And the people who remained behind.

“Is the story he told about suffering with Weed-nim real?”

“Somehow I don’t envy him.”

“Even if I had the abilities, I don’t want to live like that.”

“We can just act comfortably.”



Weed's hunt for members!

All of his colleagues were looking for the treasure of the Pallos Empire except for Pale.

And he needed to pick up a man from the Freya Church. His first slave apart from Van Hawk.

“Ohhh, it is great to see you after such a long time. Other people don't know but I heard about Weed's special adventure through Goddess Freya.”

“Let's go.”

“Huh?”

“Time is precious.”

Weed used his accumulated contribution to the Freya Church to kidnap Alveron. And he was introduced to some new people through Mapan's wide network of contacts.

“Um, I am Python.”

Python had a huge bulk like a bear and swung his sword. He was famous for surviving in Averian Forest for his Warrior Master Quest.

Weed had met him in the past at the training centre but they both didn't remember.

‘He must eat a lot of rice.’

‘He doesn't look unusual. The atmosphere is normal, just like the rumours about the King of the Arpen Kingdom.’

And a mysterious man also joined.

“My name...it is difficult to tell you but the merchant Mapan can guarantee that I am trustworthy.”

The man that Mapan introduced was wearing a hood that made it difficult to even see his face. Weed shook hands with him first.

“It is a pleasure.”

“I’ll work hard.”

The man had a naturally cool voice like an actor. Weed met the man’s eye.

‘I can’t believe this guy. He looks much better than me.’

‘I know he is a sculptor but I don’t feel anything special.’ Perhaps he seems stronger on the broadcasts? But I can completely win over him. I am the shadow of death, Seasoned....no.’

Weed, Pale, Alveron, Python and the man of death. The party was formed and then Python asked.

“But where are we going? A normal hunting ground wouldn’t need to gather all these people. Do you have some quest to finish?”

They heard that hunting with Weed the God of War was amazing and decided to join without any information.

The Haven Empire’s army was approaching so they wondered why he wanted to hunt now. He would only be able to gain 1~2 levels in the next few days.

From Weed’s perspective, he was in a hurry to restore his levels.

“Let’s go south.”

“South? Huh, really surprising. Are you referring to the battlefield of the Haven Empire?”

“Not the southern area of the north. We are going to the southern region of the Versailles Continent.”

“That is just desert.... Ah! The quest on the television. You want to hunt based on information obtained from your time in the desert. But won’t it take too long to move there? It would be better to take care of some of the surrounding dungeons.”

Python disagreed with the travel plans. There were many dungeons near the Earth Palace.

The higher level a user was, the more careful they had to be. They had

to carefully collect information about dungeons, quests and hunting. Losing their lives would cause a huge loss so they needed to make rational judgements. So they needed to prepare places to run away in the dungeon when they were at risk from dying.

Weed the God of War might have power but he couldn't just go into dungeons unprepared. But Weed had a rotten smile on his face that was closer to derision after hearing Python's words.

"What is the meaning in achieving an insignificant goal? It should be larger."

"That is fine but what can you achieve in a day of hunting? Of course, the story would change if there was a long distance teleport gate to the dungeon."

"I will take care of the travel time. And more important, you should have a goal in life or it will be like eating roasted buns instead of sweet and sour pork for the rest of your life."

The shadow of death felt deeply sympathetic towards Python. Because they both disliked roasted buns..



"I...will...kill...this...place...is...originally...Kallamore's...land..."

Van Hawk and the 600 Imperial Doom Knights occupied cities and two fortresses.

"Kikilkil!"

"Uhehehehe!"

The thick walls of the fort found it difficult to stop the rush of the undead. Angry ghosts and Doom Knights passed through the gates or jumped high over the walls.

"Constantly shoot at their feet!"

"Generously sprinkle with holy water, priests pray for God's power!"

The soldiers of the Haven Empire used flaming arrows. Arrows flew

across the dark sky and fell onto the enemy. Lights momentarily flared everywhere and the bodies of skeletons and zombies could be seen.

“Really fun. Shouldn’t I express this fun?”

“Attack, attack, uhehehehe!”

“Ah, it is frustrating. I am a skeleton with no left leg. Are there any leg bones nearby?”

The users participating in the event advanced towards the fortress as undead. There were at least 40,000 undead users participating. Including the bodies of the Versailles Continent’s residents wrapped in the power of the Abyss Knight, there was a total of 100,000 undead!

It was enough troops to form a kingdom in the Central Continent that had been unified by the Haven Empire.

“Skeletons, climb the walls!”

“Kikilkil!”

The skeletons climbed the steep walls with their bony fingers and fought the soldiers. Unless the undead users lost their lives to divine magic or holy water, they would be restored immediately.

The users participating as Doom Knights laughed pleasantly. The users could relieve their stress against the Haven Empire in this event so they were happy!

However, the elite troops of the Haven Empire were prepared to respond to the undead. The Hermes Guild had 30,000 users, 6,000 Imperial knights and the support of the paladins and priests of the Central Continent.

Due to the exclusive quests and funds, they were able to mobilize the troops of the religions on the continent.

“The undead will continue to revive unless we completely remove their roots. The low grade undead don’t matter but we need to address the Abyss Knight Van Hawk and the Doom Knights.

An Abyss Knight was terrifying. Its power was supported by the Doom

Knights.

Time was running out since the Abyss Knight appeared in the Kallamore area. While the Hermes Guild was mobilizing their forces, the undead were getting stronger as more soldiers from the Kallamore Kingdom joined them.

Fortunately, it was relatively easy to deal with the undead using light and divine power. Except for the Hermes Guild users, the soldiers and knights were entirely composed of NPCs.

All the users involved in the battle had their weapons and armour blessed. Silver weapons, armour and supplies piled up in the warehouses were all released.

As the Abyss Knight Van Hawk and the Doom Knights arrived near Hopenia Fortress, the teleport gate there activated.

Pushushuk!

There was an intense light as Bardray arrived at Hopenia Fortress.

“His Majesty the Emperor who rules over a vast territory.”

“The Sword of the Empire and the largest sponsor of the church.”

The NPC knights were respectful as soon as Bardray appeared. The ordinary soldiers and residents of Hopenia Fortress bowed low on the ground

Bardray nodded his head towards the Imperial Knights and paladins.

‘A lot of troops.’

Hopenia was a very large fortress that used to belong to the Kallamore Kingdom. The Hermes Guild had to sacrifice a lot in order to occupy this place.

It wasn't just the height of Hopenia Fortress. It was built against high mountains and cliffs so it was difficult to penetrate. It was equipped with basic defenses like an archers' tower, catapult launchers, a moat and small, narrow windows to prevent the intrusion of enemies.

In many ways, it was difficult to conquer Hepenia Fortress so those who owned it would feel proud. Of course, it still wasn't completely repaired from the damage of the last battle.

'Those who started in the Haven Empire won't know the difference but this used to belong to the Kallamore Kingdom. There is no time so many things are insufficient. I miss those days a little bit.'

The Hermes Guild users gathered at the fortress once they heard Bardray come through the teleport gate.

"Is that Bardray?"

"It is the first time I'm seeing him directly and his equipment is really great."

"The power that dominated the Versailles Continent. How strong is he?"

"Based on the broadcast, he is the strongest in the continent. Even Carlise lost his life. He didn't just obtain the name of God. Even Weed the God of War couldn't survive against him."

Bardray heard a lot of chatter around him. Most of it was praise but some words were filled with envy.

The users belonging to Hermes Guild were proud to be in the presence of Bardray.

'Yes, this reaction. Soon all of the people on the continent will be showing this reaction!'

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

Despite the undead's first attacks, the Hermes Guild waited calmly.

Losing fortresses or cities was a loss for the Haven Empire but they willingly submitted to it. The economic power of the Empire meant that cities could grow in 1~2 days.

Lafaye and the leaders of the Hermes Guild were concerned about the big picture of the Empire. The centre of the area was the Haven Kingdom that promoted production, technology development and trade for the entire central area.

In the early days of Royal Road, each kingdom were held firmly to their area. The continents in the centre flourished economically compared to the undeveloped areas.

There was a long period of time where the prestigious guilds had disputes over those areas. The whole continent was in turmoil until the Haven Empire was established.

Once the continent was unified, the Imperial Palace would start the systematic management. Stable and endless prosperity.

The Hermes Guild's leaders gathered at the Imperial Palace had already thought of a long term plan for ruling.

Of course, most of the east was still recovering from the influence of the Embinyu Church and they were also preparing the army to occupy the southern deserts. In the process, they would accept the knights and soldiers of the kingdoms they conquered.

The leaders of the Haven Empire didn't need to worry about conquering the east or the south. Despite the war in the north lasting longer than expected, it was being handled perfectly.

“We need a complete victory.”

Bardray and the Royal Guards were going to fight against the Abyss Knight. The top 300 users in the Hermes Guild belonged to the Royal Guards.

The Royal Guards were supported with the best weapons, armour, hunting grounds, skills and research.

“Those guys flocking towards Hopenia Fortress...there are places where the walls of the fortress are crumbled and it will be hard to respond in the darkness.”

They decided to intercept the undead outside the fortress. There was no need to fight the enemy at a fortress that wasn't suitable. The Hermes Guild were filled with pride so that didn't want to be beaten by the undead on these walls.

“Cocoon Valley. If we block all sides then none of the undead will be able to survive.”

Cocoon Valley was an area with tremendous height. It was a wide valley in between beautiful, breathtaking rugged mountains.

The rainy season would cause a river to flow through it. Flowers bloomed among green trees in spring and the scenery would be enough to have hundreds and thousands of visitors. Currently, the water and growth was low so it was a place suitable for large scale combat.

“This place will be the grave of the undead. That is the only value the scenery has.”

The forces were mobilized after noon and waited for night to arrive. The Hermes Guild arranged their weapons and waited for night time.

Abyss Knight Van Hawk and the undead would appear at night. Soon it was twilight and night fell.

-Wuhihihit.

The ghosts made whining sounds and emerged from the ground. The undead that had been sleeping deep in the ground rose again.

Abyss Knight Van Hawk and the Doom Knights of the Kallamore Kingdom. The undead users actively participating!

-Night is the time of the undead.

Abyss Knight Van Hawk led his undead troops to regain the territory of the Kallamore Kingdom. Today 4,302 new undead users had joined.

“Heh, this will be fun.”

“They are only beggar skeletons.”

“Trample the rebellion. Shatter all their bones.”

This was the Kallamore Kingdom in the Central Continent and the levels of the users in the Hermes Guild were far superior.

They were composed of strong people that had gone through all types of hardships. In the past, the strong players had gathered under the banner

of the Hermes Guild. They thought that they were the strongest as they waited for the upcoming battle.

The Abyss Knight invading the Haven Empire was a big issue so the broadcasters decided to play it live.

The worst monster, the Abyss Knight! The strongest Empire on the continent! Many high level users like clouds!

There were already enough elements for success!



Bardray stood at the top of the valley with the Royal Guards. It was a good location to look over the whole battlefield.

Abyss Knight Van Hawk had to break through layers of troops in order to reach him.

He was always escorted by the Royal Guards but now there were an additional unit of Imperial Knights and 5,000 Hermes Guild users acting as protection.

‘Funny. This is a quirky and fresh situation. I had been feeling a bit bored from all the conquest and ruling. Weed must have felt this way after experience numerous quests and events.’

Bardray could feel the tension of the exciting battle.

‘I’ve been looking forward to a battle like this.’

He had pride in defeated numerous strong monsters. He was recognized as the undisputed strongest user on the continent.;

Weed was the symbol of a great battle by using one point attacks but the Black Knight had special skills to stop rebellions. The effort of the Hermes Guild meant that his sword techniques were continuing to evolve.

Bardray was inwardly surprised. His armed forces were growing with increasing speed. One individual had piled up such a military force in Royal Road.

Unfortunately, he was restricted in quests so Weed had stepped up to

the level of Warrior Saving the World first. However, if he was given the opportunity in the future then there was no doubt he would obtain it.

‘My fame will go up if I fight the Abyss Knight.’

Bardray waited for the battle. He wanted to fight but needed to wait for the proper timing. A man should appear in the most important moments of the fight. He would appear with dramatic timing and clear up the situation like Weed.

“They are coming.”

“Prepare to carry out the plan.”

Bardray watched the users busy taking action. The undead were expected to enter through the entrance of the valley below. They couldn't bypass Cocoon Valley.

‘They are a stupid and easy opponent. The attributes of the undead are crucial.’

The undead were widely known as the incarnations of revenge. NPCs were capable of moderately complex thought processes.

For example, a magician would have a lot more knowledge than a merchant. They cherished their own lives, academic goals or gave out certain quests. But the undead didn't think and simple wanted the destruction of the Hermes Guild.

The details of Van Hawk's past meant they knew his nature. He was a hero of the mighty Kallamore Empire. After somehow becoming lost in darkness, he was appointed by Barkhan as a commander of his Immortal Legion.

Van Hawk's true ability was his power to exert leadership over the skeletons! A great knight could double the abilities of their soldiers. There were several variables such as loyalty or intimacy but the knights could increase the abilities depending on the situation.

Van Hawk and the Doom Knights were fully trained in that regard. The undead with their capabilities strengthened could crash through the

enemies.

Despite being undead, the leaders had considerable intellect. Even if they knew it was a trap, their tendencies to break through meant they would come into the valley.

“This will be a good opportunity.”

Bardray rode a white horse with dignity as he waited for the battle to start.



“Let’s start the operation.”

“Carry out the 1st wave of attacks!”

Kurururung!

Large rocks started to roll down the valley. The Haven Empire had prepared rocks in order to deal with the undead. The rocks quickly rolled down the steep valley and broke through the formation of the undead.

“Kkuek.”

“Aigoo!”

The limbs of the skeletons were broken. Hundreds of skeletons went rolling as they were crushed by the rocks.. Don’t read on pirated sites

-Ambushhhh!

The users participating in the event as ghost cried out.

“Kilkil!”

“Is that how you should meet us?”

The skeletons, zombies, dullahans, death knights, ghosts, doom knights and users watched the rocks coming without any tension.

Even if they died, they would be revived with the power of the Abyss Knight! In addition, they welcomed an ambush. The Doom Knights would become stronger from suffering.

It was common to find Doom Knights in the dungeons of the Central

Continent. The Abyss Knight Van Hawk's ability was enough to smash walls and gates. The level of the undead users varied and some were senior monsters like Doom Knights.

However, they looked down on the response of the Haven Empire.

The Hermes Guild had the capacity to build an empire and their knowledge of tactics from ancient books was excellent. Even though their opponent was the worst Abyss Knight, they had prepared to respond accordingly.

“Purify this land according to God's will...Proclamation of Holy Land!

“All the wicked and evil can't return to this place, Judgement of the Wicked!”

The priests shouted and aimed their divine magic at the undead. The bodies made of dark mana returned to the earth as the souls were perfectly destroyed.

The priests' divine magic struck down on the valley filled with undead like pure, white lightning.

“The archers will begin their mission.”

The Haven Empire's skilled archers launched a barrage of silver arrows. The specialized magician and archer units had helped in their conquest operations.

No matter how excellent the users, they couldn't escape the intensive attacks hitting the battlefield. The commanders of the ranged troops aimed them at the proper place for active suppression.

The archers of the Haven Empire had the best equipment and received special training so they could shoot arrows ten times per minute.

5,000 archers fired silver arrows, causing a huge commotion among the crowd of zombies and skeletons.

There was no armour or shields so it hit the body. The dullahans and death knights didn't die but the arrows greatly reduced their health.

“Kehehe, not enough. I will have rice porridge with abalone!”

A skeleton hit the arrows with rusty swords.

‘A hero needs this much suffering!’

Jighart started in the Central Continent and joined an ordinary guild. His guild didn't have a fortress so he didn't participate in any wars. But there was a war between the Haven Empire and prestigious guilds so the persecution in the Central Continent became deeper.

Then he had migrated to the north. After a distressful trip, he finally lived a life of happiness in the north.

In the distant past, he had died in the vicinity of Reinstadem and the Abyss Knight revived him to participate in the fight.

Due to the fact that he lost his life in the old days, he only became a skeleton. But he skillfully handled the sword and hit the flying arrows.

The aura of the Abyss Knight made him more powerful.

“Their huge conceitedness! I will show them the power of a skeleton!”

Jighart moved like he was possessed but his body was soon hit by arrows.

-Health has decreased by 2,349.

A holy silver arrow.

This is a critical hit against those with dark inclinations.

Attack power has been reduced by 12%.

Once hit with three or four arrows in a row, his body burned into grey ash and soon disappeared.

The Abyss Knight had control over darkness and could raise the undead again. But the Proclamation of Holy Land and silver arrows meant it took more time than usual.

“My bones are melting so I can't advance.”

“I only have my pelvis and ankle bone left. I won't be able to fight.”

“Show those humans the taste of death.”

The undead started to climb the valley without hesitation. Rocks rolled down but they were somewhat safe from the arrows on the steep cliffs.

“Chew on living flesh.”

“Revenge on the Haven Empire!”

The undead players and residents of the Kallamore Kingdom climbed the cliff. The users mixed in with the undead found it interesting and fun.

“A terrible smell is coming!”

“The severe smell of something rotten. Stop the undead from reaching here!”

The army of the Haven Empire screamed.

A strong odour was drifting from the body of the undead. The undead didn't have a nose so they couldn't smell it. However, it was seriously painful for the humans.

“Kilkilkil!”

The undead climbed up bit by bit.

Chapter 4: Emperor of the Haven Empire

“This is classic and boring.”

Bardray frowned from above the valley.

“It would be nice if the undead weren’t so weak.”

The Haven Empire had prepared excessively for the Abyss Knight and Doom Knights. The 100,000 undead army melted in vain from the divine magic and silver arrows.

Their idea to climb the cliff was stupid. The rocks, arrows and magic meant they couldn’t even climb half of it before rolling back down. The Imperial Knights of the Haven Empire were guarding the cliffs so they undead would just die even if they reached the top.

The Hermes Guild moved at an amazing speed and encircled them. They could easily succeed in cleaning up the undead troops.

This undead army was significantly weaker than the armies of the other guilds and kingdoms that the Haven Empire had faced.

“The levels are too far off. I didn’t want this type of battle.”

He wanted the undead army to be stronger in order to create an amazing scene. The Haven Empire’s army could overcome the disadvantage, but they didn’t want to take the risk. He just wanted the best scenario to show off his power.

However, Bardray was watching the undead collapse in vain.

Ghosts could fly in the air but were too afraid of the divine magic to approach the cliff.

However, the priests’ mana wasn’t infinite and half of the silver arrows had been consumed.

“Imperial Knights, charge!”

“Return all the undead to dust.”

“Ohhhh!”

The Imperial Knights rode down the steep slope on horseback as planned. The horses running down the steep slope was like magic. The Imperial Knights of the Haven Empire had excellent horses with special magic.

The knights heading down the cliff burned the undead with their magic swords.

“I will finish them all off.”

“Let the undead know the strength of the Hermes Guild!”

The Hermes Guild users also hurriedly ran down the cliff.

The high level users enjoyed enormous privileges from the Hermes Guild so they never refused any commands to mobilize. Bardray easily gathered users with the highest levels and largest power.

The Abyss Knight was damaging the Central Continent that they conquered so the Hermes Guild gathered their power..

“Come, Hermes villains!”

“I will just revive even if you kill me!”

The undead users cried out as the undead users headed down the cliff.

“Just kicking the undead with my foot would cause the skeleton to decay....! This is a high class swordsmanship skill!”

“Emanation of fierce power, Axe Assault!”

The Hermes Guild used their excellent skills to sweep through the undead like leaves.

“Uhh, unbelievable....”

The skeletons' hopes and dreams were destroyed in vain. Some were lucky but the undead killed by swords imbued with magic power couldn't even dream of resurrection.

The gap between the Hermes Guild and the skeletons was too large so they were little help in battle. The death knights, dullahans and soul trackers reinforced by the dark aura withstood several attacks before

being destroyed.

Then a low, gloomy voice rang out through the valley.

“Steel knights of the Kallamore Kingdom! Destroy the enemy for the glory of the empire!”

“This...place...take...back... ..But...blessing...part...take...breathe...that...way...straight...”

“Ha...ven...straight...chew...them...all...!”

The Abyss Knight Van Hawk was marching at the head of the Doom Knights. There was an immediate change to the battlefield.

The dark aura spread out from Van Hawk. His left hand was holding a spear and his right hand a sword as he wielded the weapons against the Hermes Guild.

“The spread of the abyss.”

Before they knew it, the dark aura split into many branches and hit hundreds of users in the Hermes Guild.

Kwa kwa kwa kwang!

“This much is nothing!”

“Cough!”

The users hit by the dark aura lost their lives. The whole front was devastated. Shields and armour were broken and those that didn't die received serious damage to their health. In their current state, they couldn't even resist the skeletons.

“Strong....”

“This is the real appearance of the legendary monster Abyss Knight!”

The Hermes Guild far away watched with horror as their peers were killed.

“Abyss Knight. I acknowledge that he is moderately strong. But a shallow attack like this, Tirbing is impervious to it!”

A user in the Hermes Guild called Tirbing! A warrior who always came to the front in the battlefield.

-Incomplete Body Wave

All physical damage caused by the enemy will be reduced by 20% and a serious injury can increase defense up to 9 times, depending on the level.

This will affect resilience and other defense skills.

However, there will be a severe loss of skill proficiency if you die.

Restrictions: Restricted to warriors.

600 Resilience or more.

Experience clearing more than 206 dungeons.

A warrior who usually didn't die in battle. He would survive even on battlefields when many people lost their lives.

He dashed hundreds of metres in a straight line towards the enemy as he entered battle mode.

“Abyss Knight, this will be your end!”

Tirbing shouted loudly as he approached the Abyss Knight Van Hawk. Van Hawk stopped emitting the dark aura for a moment.

Tirbing ran towards him wielding a long spear. Once he was roughly 50 metres away from Van Hawk.

All the light was absorbed into the darkness and it was pushed out. A dark spear containing the aura of despair hit Tirbing's chest.

“Keheok! But I don't mind the pain. I can endure it!”

Tirbing was slightly over level 400 while Van Hawk was in the mid-600s.

He was always been compared to Weed but Van Hawk's power was enough to make him one of the boss class monsters on the Versailles Continent. The so-called invisible state!

Nevertheless, Tirbing was able to survive thanks to Incomplete Body

Wave.

“This dirty Abyss Knight! I won’t be surprised by just this!”

Tirbing’s health had declined by 16%. In addition, he had sore legs from running but he didn’t show it at all. But that wasn’t the extent of Van Hawk’s power as he didn’t withdraw the spear from Tirbing.

“Uhh?”

Tirbing’s body floated into the air like it was possessed. Van Hawk tied him up with the power of darkness..

-You have been taken captive by the abyss.

Resistance has failed.

You lack faith and concentration.

Strength is low.

Unable to move for 16 seconds.

“Eh? This isn’t....”

From then on, Van Hawk’s spear started to show dazzling movements.

Pabababak! Kwa kwa kwa kwak! Peok! Jjik! Kuuung!

Tirbing fell down into the dirt. And he neatly died!

The difference in levels and being unable to defend meant he died. It was a shocking sight.

The Hermes Guild panicked in front of the Abyss Knight. The high level users backed by the Hermes Guild had never seen a situation like this before.

“It is time to get revenge for Kallamore. March of the Dead!”

Van Hawk used a collective assault skill. The Doom Knights escorted him towards the Hermes Guild.

“Endure! Soon the priests will support us with the divine magic....”

Seokeok!

“Block their assault!”

Kwajijjik!

“I can’t endure.....”

Kwa kwa kwang!

The users of the Hermes Guild lost their lives to the assault of Van Hawk and the Doom Knights. The Abyss Knight had a level over 600!

And the aura coming from the Abyss Knight focused on the Imperial Knights of the Kallamore Kingdom. The strongest assault troops in the history of the Versailles Continent pierced through the Hermes Guild users.

Even high level monsters couldn’t exert this much havoc. The species characteristics and weakness in the flesh meant there were always one or two places for effective attacks.

But the Abyss Knight had returned for the sake of combat.

-The deep despair and anger sleeping in the abyss has burst out.

Humans have their morale reduced by 24%.

Luck has been reduced by 66%.

Mental confusion will decrease the probability of a spell or skill succeeding.

Health recovery rate has slowed.

“Kuwaaaaah!”

The overall morale was diminished every time a famous user of the Hermes Guild lost their lives. The nature of the knights meant they had higher power than their allies but their loss would shatter the rest.

Van Hawk and the Doom Knights wiped out the Hermes Guild users descending into the valley.

“Uh, it is staggering. This is the first real assault.”

“In the front. Priests, scatter and avoid them while giving support!”

“Stop them no matter what! If you retreat then the damage will be bigger!”

So far, the Hermes Guild users were slaughtered but the undead assault hadn't slowed down at all. The users lost their lives to Van Hawk in the lead!

The knights at the peak of the Kallamore Empire had been revived as Doom Knights.

In fact, Van Hawk hadn't reached the pinnacle of power as an Abyss Knight. Combat experience would give him more room to grow and his newly acquired Abyss Knight skills hadn't reached the mature state yet. It wasn't a situation where he could strengthen all of the Doom Knights and the undead.

Even so, he was like a surging God of Death to the users. The charge of the Doom Knights that demonstrated explosive speed and destructive power couldn't be stopped.

“They have appeared as planned. Well as expected, they have serious assault abilities.”

“Start the 2nd wave of attacks.”

The Hermes Guild had fought countless battles in the process of conquering the Central Continent. There was also the experience of breaking through dungeons.

The successes and failures had been recorded in the guild's information. They prepared tactics to use against monsters.

A head on confrontation with the Abyss Knight and Doom Knights would be a burden. This wasn't a narrow dungeon where they couldn't avoid the opponent. They needed to decide a target to concentrate the attacks on.

“Carry out the attack!”

Buuuuuuuuuh!

An uninterrupted horn sound echoed through the valley. From this

point onwards, the target of all the ranged attacks from the Hermes Guild users were aimed towards Van Hawk and the Doom Knights.

Unless the undead were killed with holy magic or silver arrows, they would just continue to revive again. In order to fully subdue the undead army, they had to take care of Van Hawk.

A heavy shower of attacks fell towards Van Hawk and the Doom Knights.

“That won’t be enough. Have the priests be prepared.”

“I understand.”

The senior priests chanted divine magic in order to give support.

“God, give us permission to liberate all the evil here...free those steeped in darkness and pain!”

-This land has been declared the sanctuary of the god Atrock.

All those fighting the darkness will feel the effect of divine power.

The effect of combat skills will be enhanced by 32%.

Maximum health will increase up to 150% according to faith.

The effect of divine magic will increase and the amount of mana used will be halved.

All the undead will receive a blow to their health from 20% up to 65%!

A sanctuary declaration!

It was a spell that distorted all dark magic in the area.

“Good.”

“A clean and perfect preparation.”

“We will make the Abyss Knight cry.”

The high level users of the Hermes Guild were waiting for this moment. They had promised to yield the Abyss Knight to Bardray in advance. But it wouldn’t be bad to play an active role in the broadcast.

“2nd and 3rd attack troops, march!”

An fierce struggle broke out between the Imperial Knights and the users of the Hermes Guild. The dispatched troops were supported with divine magic and ranged attacks but knew they had to look after their bodies to survive.

Bardray and his specifically selected high level Royal Guards waited quietly for the Abyss Knight. 10 minutes passed and the number of general undead was reduced by half.

The undead were vulnerable to the divine magic entering the valley. Despite the valley being a Hermes Guild combat outpost, the users had a minimum of level 300 and quite a significant amount were over level 400.

Van Hawk and his Doom Knights survived longer.

“Why are they so strong?”

“Damn. There is really no answer to that assault.”

The users of the Hermes Guild realized the strength of the legendary monster, the Abyss Knight.

In fact, they had been contemptuous of the Abyss Knight while watching Weed’s adventures. During the warring people, Van Hawk obediently followed orders or else he was beaten. Weed was sweeping through the Central Continent on a special quest so they didn’t realize it.

However, they finally felt the presence of the Abyss Knight and Doom Knights after facing the assault.

But the Hermes Guild had only 30,000 users gathered here! Knights , warriors, martial artists, rangers and magicians all continued their attacks against the Abyss Knight.

“Push them back!”

“Unconditionally attack. Move quickly to lower their health instead of encircling them!”

Nearly 100,000 undead had been destroyed since the battle started. The undead users had played heartily but this stage was too big for them.

Most of them were melted by divine magic and forbidden from being resurrected.

The Abyss Knight Van Hawk and Hermes Guild were the only undead still actively moving in the valley.

Both sides of the valley were blocked with priests and paladins and there were dozens of layers of obstacles and troops.

However, the undead had the stamina to fight all day. But the loss of energy would make the special dark skills unusable.

“Armoured troops move forward!”

“Shield troopers, start your assault.”

The Hermes Guild users gathered together according to their profession and started small formations. The Doom Knights were devastated by the enemy and lost their lives one by one.

“The...spi...rit...of...Kall...a...more...won't...die...”

“Van...Haw...k...sec...ond...life...turn...ed...out...like...this....”

Doom Knights in the assault formation were turned to grey ash. If the Abyss Knight gathered enough power of darkness then they could be fully revived again. But the Hermes Guild called the priests to cleanse the area, delaying the revival time.

They couldn't completely block the Abyss Knight's power source. But it was enough if they could delay the revival of his subordinates for a few hours.

Van Hawk struggled as the Hermes Guild users swarmed him. He swung a dark spear at least 10 metres long.

“Come. I will destroy the Haven Kingdom! I'll show you what a Kallamore knight is!”

The energy of the abyss tore through the Hermes Guild users near it. The priests spread shields made out of divine magic that could reduce the damage.

20,000 Hermes Guild users were concentrating their attacks on Van Hawk. Despite being a favourable situation for the high level users, 10,000 people had already died due to the Abyss Knight and Doom Knights.

“Uh...a really awful monster.”

“Is it still not dead?”

They were shocked as 1,000 people collapsed like straw under the Abyss Knight’s assault. If it wasn’t for the help of the divine power, more people would have died.

‘How the hell did Weed win against the Immortal Legion?’

‘This guy is at a similar level to Barkhan. Then we are weak. Or is Weed more powerful than us?’

The best players among the Hermes Guild heavily questioned it. However, there was a very big difference between Van Hawk and Barkhan.

Barkhan could raise high ranking undead legions equipped to fight the entire Haven Empire. Barkhan’s ability to summon a near unlimited number of undead would shine in a big war. Weed had betrayed from the inside while Geomchi decreased his health. The undead army was weakened and shattered.

On the other hand, Van Hawk could make the most of his subordinates’ abilities in combat. The enemy picked a good place to deal with him but many of them were sacrificed in a short time.

Van Hawk’s amazing military force made the heart of the Hermes Guild members who were certain of victory sink down in their chests. Despite being certain of victory, they couldn’t help feeling scared of the Abyss Knight.

The users gradually withdrew.

“Finish him!”

“Show the continent the power of the Haven Empire!”

Van Hawk brandished his spear at the remaining Imperial Knights and destroyed them. The majesty of the worst undead, the Abyss Knight!

“Now who will attack?”

“How quickly can he recover?”

“Damn, I don’t know. But I don’t want to fight him.”

The Hermes Guild users that counted among the top 100 on the Versailles Continent had gathered in this place. But none of them could fight against Van Hawk.

Of course, that was also true for Bardray.

‘Now it is the turn of my group.’

The low ranking undead that he wasn’t interested in had already disappeared. He had watched while trying to find a gap in the Abyss Knight and Doom Knight troops.

Bardray could effortlessly take care of the Doom Knights and deal significant damage to Van Hawk. He had the best blessing spells on him, wore undead focused equipment and mobilized the Royal Guards so he didn’t need to fight alone.

However, he had seen Van Hawk take care of 100 people alone.

‘I will wait a little more.’

A persistent amount of arrows and magic were pouring towards Van Hawk. There were no other undead or Doom Knights so the magicians and archers concentrated their attacks on Van Hawk.

However, it was hard to tell if Van Hawk was damaged. The dark aura moved like a ghost and hid the body so it was difficult to tell. Van Hawk was fighting alone but 800 Hermes Guild users had already died.

‘I will wait until he slows down. Anyway, this battle is already won.’

Bardray folded his arms while riding the white horse and looked up at the sky. The stars in the night sky were dazzling but the world was still dark. Van Hawk would be finished by the time sun came up.

‘The group needs to hunt more to avoid the same thing happening again today.’

Bardray was level 510. He could attempt to resist the Abyss Knight.

But it would be humiliating if he lost his life. The damage to his level and skill proficiency would be huge and the scene would also appear on broadcast.

The Abyss Knight was a strong monster but he was the Emperor that united the Central Continent. Losing his life wasn't a very pleasant experience.

‘It will be silly to take unnecessary risks just to look courageous. It would be truly ridiculous if the Emperor of the Haven Empire dies while dealing with the undead. Just a little more.’

Bardray was a little disappointed and annoyed that he couldn't have a more perfect victory.

“.....”

“What will happen in this battle? Should we start acting?”

The high level users of the Hermes Guild and the Royal Guards noticed where Bardray was looking.

Meanwhile, the battle was continuing! Van Hawk had killed more than 1,000 Imperial Knights and Hermes Guild users.

Van Hawk was weakened by the divine power and was in the worst state. The divine magic reduced the health of the undead as well as their strength and energy.

-A sacred aura has surrounded your body.

The powers of darkness can't be used until the next night.

Van Hawk no longer received the power of darkness that rose up from the abyss. The body's protective abilities weakened and they could see that the armour had turned into rags.

The summoning of a black horse was canceled.

“I am tired. But it is still enough to handle the Haven dogs.”

The Abyss Knight Van Hawk leaned his body against the spear.

The enemies looking down on the valley.

“Ohhhh.”

None of the Hermes Guild users stood a chance against him. The previous attacks had proven that the first person to go against Van Hawk would die!

Most of the damage came from successful ranged attacks. The users who attempted close combat lost their lives to Van Hawk’s spear.

Van Hawk couldn’t attack randomly anymore as he only had 10% health left. The Abyss Knight was gradually approaching his end.

“.....”

Eyes gradually turned towards Bardray.

The combat commanders and high level users of the Hermes Guild knew that Bardray wanted to finish off the Abyss Knight. Even if Bardray had nothing to do with the victory, the users had promised him in advance.

Soon the atmosphere changed to all of the Hermes Guild staring at him.

‘It can’t be helped.’

Bardray checked his status before riding down the valley.

“Waaaaaah!”

The Hermes Guild members cried out. It was a cry of surprise at the sight of the white horse coming down the cliff.

Of course, this situation was deliberately directed by Bardray.

“We must win.”

“It was very dangerous.”

The Royal Guards following Bardray whispered among themselves. In their eyes, they couldn’t allow Bardray to be beaten.

The strongest warrior Bardray. His individual ability played a role in conquering the continent but he was also the symbol of the Hermes Guild.

Bardray was the solid roots of the Haven Empire so he couldn't lose his life. The Hermes Guild users split apart as Bardray and the Royal Guards headed towards the Abyss Knight.

“Hrmm.”

The tension heightened as they neared the Abyss Knight.

Van Hawk said towards the incoming Bardray.

“King of the Fools, you've finally set out.”

Bardray smiled without any apparent concern. This moment would ring in the chest of the people viewing the broadcast.

“The undead blinded by revenge, I will show you the might of the Emperor that dominated the continent.”

“An emperor. Someone who uses force to trample on the weak, aren't you deluding yourself?”

“I am the right person to end the war on the chaotic continent. Undead, you have forgotten about human laws.”

“I know. I know it very well. You are not qualified to compete with me.”

Bardray clenched his teeth. It was true that the Hermes Guild had done some vile things while extending the Haven Empire. They deliberately betrayed their guild alliances and destroyed any non-aggression treaties.

However, there was no one that could stop the behaviour of their guild. Van Hawk was questioning Bardray's qualifications as an Emperor was the problem.

The Black Knight was a profession with outstanding leadership skills. It was hard to find a combat profession better than this but he had abandoned chivalry when he betrayed a lord.

Despite climbing to the seat of Emperor, his legitimacy was

questionable. There was a special emperor's quest to overcome this but Bardray hadn't performed it yet. The quest would take too much time and he believed he could show his true force through hunting.

No matter how strong his army was, the effect on his fame could be seen by Van Hawk's reaction.

"I will prove my qualifications by getting rid of you."

"That is impossible."

"You won't know until we fight. Emperor Bardray of the Haven Empire, I challenge the Abyss Knight."

"You are entitled to ask for an honourable fight. Bring it on."

Van Hawk rushed towards Bardray on a white horse. And the battle between the two of them! Bardray violently struck downwards with his sword and it impacted with Van Hawk's spear.

Chaeeng!

It was to the extent that a huge shockwave passed through the earth. And the Abyss Knight was pushed back slightly.

This was because he had lost the power of darkness from the abyss.

'It is possible. The overwhelming resistance is gone.'

There was a smile on Bardray's face. He quickly stabbed his sword three times.

Van Hawk blocked it with his spear every time.

"Give me your neck."

Van Hawk also struck back but his attack bounced off Bardray's sword. It was a fierce and quick exchange of offense and defense. Bardray brandished his sword at least twenty times.

"Sword Awakening, Strong Will, Summon Another Sword and Power of Birth!"

When any other opponent, he would originally pretend to fall back. But now he was greedy to kill the Abyss Knight.

The Abyss Knight had clearly been weakened.

“Be careful. From now on, my attacks won’t be so simple.”

“Wicked and rude person, be careful what you say to an Abyss Knight. Soon the sun will rise and those words will be meaningless.”

This was what Bardray had hoped for. Once the sun rose, Van Hawk would disappear and then reappear in the evening.

“Golden Lion Sword!”

Van Hawk’s health was gradually reduced during the duel. There was a 150 level difference between them but Van Hawk was already seriously weakened.

Bardray’s sword emitted a brilliant light like the rays of the sun, causing Van Hawk’s body to shake violently. He was holding Lugh’s Sword!

Weed had returned it to the Church of Lugh after removing it from Barkhan’s body. The original divine power of the sword had been restored in Argoldia and the Hermes Guild used their contributions to borrow it.

“This sword...this sword!”

“Today is the day you will rest in peace.”

Bardray continued wielding Lugh’s Sword. The spear of the Abyss Knight didn’t have the power of darkness anymore so he could withstand the damage. Furthermore, Lugh’s Sword had the power to recover his health.

‘It is stable. I will thoroughly finish this. There won’t be any mistakes.’

The undead couldn’t resist Lugh’s Sword. Bardray paid attention to any tight gaps in the defense and counterattacked when possible.

The Abyss Knight’s health was already reduced so there was no need to be greedy. Considering Van Hawk’s actions so far, he was assured of his success.

The Hermes Guild had witnessed their members being massacred so the scene was even more breathtaking to them. Everyone was surprised when

he would unleash an explosive attack against Van Hawk.

Bardray was committed to doing his best so he had no need to create more tension on purpose.

The battle lasted 10 minutes before Van Hawk's health was depleted. Finally, the spear dropped and Bardray was assured of his victory.

"The Kallamore Kingdom shall forever belong to the Haven Empire. Undead, return to the abyss and disappear!"

"I might have failed but Kallamore will return some day. Ahh...it is a shame!"

Bardray stabbed Lugh's Sword into Van Hawk's chest. And the divine light that shone brightly!

Ddirring!

-Your level has risen.

-Your level has risen.

-The Abyss Knight Van Hawk born from the deep despair and anger of the abyss has been destroyed.

The power of darkness in the abyss will spread.

After the Abyss Knight has fallen, Doom Knights will randomly appear in the Haven Empire for sporadic resistance for 1 month.

-Fame has increased by 5,402 due to the great achievement.

-Charisma has increased by 6.

-Fighting Spirit has increased by 5.

-You have experienced a great victory.

The proficiencies of the skills used in the fight against the Abyss Knight will increase by a minimum of 3% up to 15%.

-This glorious battle has been recorded in the Haven Empire's records and all those who participated in the battle will gain 6 stats.

-You have achieved victory against the Abyss Knight Van Hawk.

Bards on the Versailles Continent will sing songs of admiration about your amazing battle.

The loyalty of the residents will climb every time the song is spread and crime rates will reduce.

Honour has increased by 35.

The nobles of the Haven Empire will no dream of revolting.

-Resistance in the Kallamore and Britten Alliance areas of the Haven Empire has been reduced.

Rebels that emerge will be suppressed.

-Title! Emperor on the Battlefield has been obtained.

Morals aren't necessary when establishing a large empire.

Knowing when to take advantage of fear and oppression is an important virtue.

Before the empire fell into chaos, you stood directly on the battlefield and removed the dangerous elements.

The strong determination will increase the morale of the soldiers up to 13% and residents will be forced to obey.

The ability of your subordinates in battle will increase by 6%.

-The Breastplate of Bitterness has been acquired.

-Helmet of the Abyss has been acquired.

-Gloves with a Poignant Grudge has been acquired.

Bardray stood idly for a moment.

So far, he had hunted many strong monsters on the Versailles Continent. Nevertheless, he have never felt any thrill like when he had killed the Abyss Knight.

Soon the sound of the Hermes Guild users cheering echoed through Cocoon Valley.

“Hooray His Majesty!”

“Bardray-nim chopped up the Abyss Knight!”

“The Hermes Guild is unbeatable!”

Their battle had ended with a complete victory. Those who were involved in the battle also gained stats as a bonus.

The members of the Hermes Guild cheered. They received significant damage but it was worth it to take care of the Abyss Knight.

Bardray also had a satisfied smile on his face.

Chapter 5: Encounter with Subordinates

-We must fight. If we lose the north then we won't have anywhere to go!

-Struggle until the end. We shouldn't give up.

The users flocked to the Earth Palace to fight against the Haven Empire. Weed the God of War had returned but they weren't sure of victory.

Of course, there were so many people that room ran out.

"I lost my shack. Should I build another shack?"

"I'm not going to bother with a shack. The other day I just slept in the alley."

"Was the sunshine good?"

"I think it would be better in the hills. But it has been raining since dawn."

"The Arpen Kingdom is good to us. We can't have it taken away by those Hermes guys."

"Shall we eat grass porridge?"

"I've never tasted anything better."

"That's right. I ate a toadstool porridge and almost died."

Whether they were beginners or had a high level, the northern users headed towards the Earth Palace.

"This is for Weed."

"The Arpen Kingdom is where we live."

The northern users gathered after Weed returned. As shown through the broadcast, the Earth Palace would be the front line between the Haven Empire.

"His Majesty has entered the Earth Palace grounds. But a lot of supplies are necessary. Perhaps he is thinking of doing business?"

"Of course. I want to sell a bunch of weapons cheaply."

“Then I’ll buy some of them. It would be nice to be a small help to His Majesty.”

-General Store’s Favour

Peka, a resident of the Arpen Kingdom is worried about his future due to the Haven Empire’s invasion.

Monsters have chased him in the past as his family wandered after the kingdom collapsed.

But they overcame all the difficulties and found a king who loves art and adventure.

Transport this material to the Earth Palace for Peka.

Level of Difficulty: E

Quest Restrictions: General store owner Peka’s faith.

After Weed called the army to the Earth palace, quests were generated everywhere to transport materials!

“His Majesty has called. I will polish my sword and go fight at this moment!”

“I, the Horad Clan’s third son will go and defend the Arpen Kingdom despite only being an apprentice knight!”

Many residents voluntarily headed towards the Earth Palace in large quantities.

Weed was the centre of the Arpen Kingdom and the residents found it a pleasure to follow the true king. This was evidence that his influence had spread all over the kingdom.

In addition, the king’s art related profession played a large role.

“Haven Kingdom, they are the bad guys.”

“Ya! Make Bardray’s statue have larger nostrils!”

Painters and sculptors were mobilized to incite patriotism with works against the Haven Empire. While culture might seem weak, it was the driving force behind their tenacity when fighting the invaders.

Thus numerous people headed to the Earth Palace when something gleamed like jewels in the sky. Sunlight reflected off huge, oversized wings, causing numerous colours to shine.

“Huh, what is that?”

“Look at that. There are even wyverns following.”

“Then...Bingryong made out of cold ice!”

“Hooray the Arpen Kingdom!”

The users and residents walking towards the Earth Palace raised their hands and cheered.

Bingryong and the wyverns were flying in the sky.

Among the users in the north, there was no one who didn't know Weed's origin story! He developed Morata from a small village to the Arpen Kingdom with the help of the sculptural lifeforms.

Bingryong and the wyverns were heading into the Earth Palace. Riding the wyverns were sculptural lifeforms like the high elf Eltin, the barbarian Gernika and the swordswoman Vindex. In particular, there was those that rode the first class Wy-3 like Goldman, Cerberus and Seville.

And following behind them was Phoenix with a long stream of fire. A giant piece of flame. A warm aura spread through the sky as they flew.

Due to their nature, the users had never had close contact with some of the sculptural lifeforms.

“Kuoooooh!”

After that, the King Hydra with 9 heads was crushing the forest. The King Hydra was tired from defending the frontier of the Arpen Kingdom alone.

“Hey, second head. What are your hobbies?”

“Swallowing monsters whole.”

“Huh, that hobby is like mine.”

“I'm the seventh head, same here.”

“Stop talking about food. Now I am hungry.”

“I’m also hungry.”

The 9 heads of the King Hydra became friends with each other. And now they were playing among themselves as they headed to the Earth Palace.

Dududududu!

This time, the users saw an enormous cloud of dust from far away.

“Now what is it?”

“I don’t know. But the scale is enormous.”

The cloud of dust was heading towards the Earth Palace. There were a countless number of cattle.

Ummoooooo!

“Who is your father?”

“I don’t know. My mother was hanging around Yellowy.”

“My mother also spent the night with Yellowy and give birth to me and my sisters.”

Yellowy caused a boom in the number of cattle in the Arpen Kingdom. The perfect musculature and energy, Yellowy was the envy of all cows. Herds of cattle with good pedigree wandered the meadows and hills and grew up.

The calves that Yellowy gave birth to headed towards the Earth Palace. Then the cattle were darkened by the shadow of the Sky Island Laviyas over them.

The avians were moving the entire island in the direction of the Earth Palace. The avians were cute, had excellent combat power and could easily travel long distances so they were the species that many preferred.

Millions of users in the vicinity of Laviyas flew around and tweeted. The avians flying through the countryside could be seen even when the lights were turned on at night.

“We are the Arpen Kingdom.”

“Amazing.”



Weed created some sculptures while his companions finished their preparations for a hunt.

“Time Sculpting!”

-Time Sculpting Beginner Level 3(79%).

Age Sculpting.

This skill will add a long amount of time to a sculpture. Sometimes this time will add value to the sculpture.

It will also stop the sculpture from being naturally damaged over time.

“I could only raise the proficiency of sculpting by one level in this short amount of time.”

He didn't want to make Masterpieces of Magnum Opus. Once he finished a piece, he would apply Time Sculpting! Sculptures would become more valuable over time.

He started with a wooden duck, a jade bowl and a gold doll of a girl.

There were several warehouses in the Earth Palace filled with materials that the king could freely access. He had to worry about property and the loyalty of the residents but this level of luxury and pleasure was the privilege of the king!

“Inspect!”

-New Short Beak

A statue of a violently angry bird.

A piece made by the most famous sculptor in the history of the continent.

For some reason, the production year can't be determined.

The piece seems to have lasted for a long time but it seems to be quite

popular among antique collectors.

Artistic Value: 17

“Hrmm.”

Weed discovered the benefits of Time Sculpting.

“I can sell them as antiques.”

The best skill to produce fake antiques! He could mass produce and distribute fake antiques that seemed to be from the Niflheim Empire or the warring period.

“This is a delicious, minor piece.”

Familiar visitors arrived while he was making the sculptures.

“Master-nim, I knew you would return safely. I polished my sword skills while loyally waiting for Master-nim. Let’s go chop up the enemy. The enemies won’t be able to escape in front of my sword!”

It was the knight Seville who he gave life to in Jigolaths.

“Uh, yes.”

Weed couldn’t help being reminded of Hestiger as he looked at Seville’s handsome appearance. A well behaved subordinate was excellent to command.

But unfortunately, Seville was just like the human Hestiger. A handsome, competent and knowledgeable type that was popular among girls!

“Ummooooo!”

“It has been a long time, gol gol gol. I wanted to see you so much. Don’t leave us again. ”

“Bark bark!”

Yellowy, Goldman and even Cerberus came in. Goldman shone brightly and he had Golden Bird and Silver Bird perched on his shoulders.

It was nostalgic meeting with his sculptural lifeforms again.

“You....”

One side of Weed’s mouth rose. He missed them but he also felt a surge of annoyance when looking at them.

“You ate well.”

“Of course. I ate well, gol gol!”

The sculptural lifeforms truly believed he was impressed. They hadn’t met in a long time so they believed Weed would feed them.

They felt like Weed had changed a lot from the past. It meant their master also missed them.

“I thought so. You ate the rice I cooked without thinking!”

“.....”

“Yellowy, I told you to take care of your body but look at your hind legs and ribs that have turned greasy.”

He crushed Yellowy’s spirit in one go!

“Ummoooooo.”

Yellowy’s eyes became wide as he blinked.

“Goldman, have you been hunting to become stronger?”

“Of course, gol gol. I lived in the hunting grounds.”

Goldman confidently replied. He had experienced death in the past so he fought hard so that he wouldn’t suffer that again. New skills were developed so he wanted to be praised.

“I’ve learned some new skills in the meantime. Gol gol.”

“What is it?”

“Eating a gold pill will make me stronger for a short period of time. It also increases my health, gol gol gol.”

“D-don’t tell me you really used it?”

“It is completely good. I use it all the time while hunting.”

“You really want to die!”

Weed was in severe despair from his sculptural lifeforms.

“Where are Bingryong and the wyverns?”

“They are out there.”

Bingryong and the wyverns were flying in the vicinity of the palace. They often broke windows and buildings from their large size in Morata and had heard a lot of nagging about it.

Weed laid his hands on his forehead.

“These guys really aren’t reliable. They are causing plenty of trouble early on. Fortunately, none of them died in my absence.”

Then the warrior Gernika said.

“Not long ago, a steed was found in the kingdom. I got motion sickness while hanging on from the white horns because it moves very quickly when it spreads its wings.”

“So? Are you saying the value is incredibly expensive?”

“Wy-1 ate it.”

“The whole thing?”

“Wy-1 even burped after eating it perfectly.”

“.....How about Bingryong?”

The high elf Eltin spoke shyly.

“Bingryong’s body made a mess out of the herb garden. All of them became useless.”

“All?”

“Everything.”

Weed’s hand was on his forehead.

It was like a scene from a drama where the president of a company suffered from high blood pressure and seemed to be collapsing. It was due to a family member or employee. This drama was reflected in reality.

Then there was a dark aura and the Death Knight Van Hawk appeared.

“Master!”

“You...how are you here? Weren't you supposed to be attacking the Haven Empire as an Abyss Knight?”

Weed was puzzled. He had been so busy creating sculptures that he hadn't listened to the news of the Versailles Continent in real time.

“I lost.”

“No, why did you lose so quickly?”

“I wanted to restore the glory of the Kallamore Empire but was defeated by the Emperor of the other side.”

Weed's body started shaking.

“An Abyss Knight could be called a strong existence in this time. Does it make sense that you are already defeated?”

“There were too many enemies.”

“If there are many enemies then use guerrilla tactics. Use the speed and breakthrough abilities of the Abyss Knight and Doom Knights! Sweep everything away. Don't tell me it was just a frontal confrontation? What type of battlefield were you in that you couldn't break away?”

“I was in a valley with the opponents above me. However, I wanted to show them the bravery of the Kallamore Knights.”

“.....”

“Many knights of the Kallamore Empire were killed in vain. I brought them all back.”

“So you died?”

“You don't understand my words. Once again, there were too many enemies.”

“Your subordinates?”

“Wiped out. The few left behind in occupied territories can't hold out

for long.”

Van Hawk who was the commander of the dark army scratched his skull with embarrassment. And Weed didn't say anything for a while.

He had a special relationship with his sculptural lifeforms and Van Hawk. It was beyond that of subordinates. In other words, it was more like parent and child.

“The world has completely changed. That is the truth, you brat.”

Weed's sense of loss was very big. Only complaints came pouring out.

Yellowy watched his master mourning and said.

“Umooooo, I had a lot of calves. I'm not just saying this, but my calves are very manly.”

“They are bulls from head to tail. Well done.”

“But they eat a lot.”

“Yellowy, calves have to eat a lot in order to grow larger. Grow up quickly so that they can be used.”

“They are eating from Morata's grain fields....”

“.....”



Although there were a few twists and turns, Weed concentrated on mass production of antique sculptures and barely managed to raise Time Sculpting to beginner level 4.

It was the final secret sculpting technique so the proficiency wasn't rising that quickly. Then he took his hunting companions and moved them to the vicinity of the Desert of Tranquility.

He could take his sculptural lifeforms but he was pressed for time and needed colleagues that he could hunt quickly with.

“This isn't the desert.”

Python had a surprised expression as he looked around

“I heard there was a desert in the north but it was really close to the Earth Palace. I didn’t expect to go there.

“We are going to the south of the Versailles Continent. Near the Desert of Tranquility.”

“What? Then we have to move completely across the continent. Really?”

“Trust me.”

Yurin drew a picture on a piece of paper and used Picture Teleportation, giving Python a completely novel experience. But the instant he arrive, his breath clogged up and he was appalled by the heat.

“This is really hot. I can only take small breaths.”

The man who didn’t reveal his name laboriously said.

At first, they thought it was just the hot sun shining down but soon the sand started to feel like a boiling hotplate.

‘This is the entrance to hell. And I can probably endure. Weed-nim will make us suffer until we are on the verge of death.’

Pale was already quietly stringing his bow without any protests. Weed was the senior adventurer and said.

“Well, it is better than the cold.”

“.....”

He had been through a lot and concluded that the cold was worse! There was a rapid reduction in vitality due to the heat penalty but his perseverance and resilience rose in the desert.

The nameless man turned around and asked.

“Then where are the hunting grounds? Are we catching monsters passing through here?”

“In the desert, constellations and unusual terrain will identify the location of things like oases. There is a dungeon that way. It isn’t too far.”

Weed pointed in the direction of the floating, intense sun.

“This isn’t the exact direction. A lot could have changed.”

“When did you last see it?”

“I don’t have the exact date but it should be between 500~700 years ago on the Versailles Continent....”

“Wouldn’t time have completely changed the terrain?”

“This is a rich place. There are plenty of dungeons in the field.”



“Rapid gait, summoning the lion that runs on sand!”

Thanks to Alveron’s divine magic, they arrived at the hunting grounds in just 5 minutes. There was the opening to a cave in the sand covered hills.

There were many strong existences in the desert so it was a good hunting ground. It was because they had to overcome the environment in order to survive. “We will enter here.”

Python, the nameless man, Pale, Alveron and Weed moved into the cave without thinking.

Kurururung!

At that moment, the soil collapsed and covered the dungeon entrance.

Ddiring!

-The Hot Underground Dungeon has been discovered.

This is a very old dungeon. This dungeon no longer remains in people’s memories or books.

It has been a very long time since human traces have come here. Or have any prey come along.

Benefits: Fame has increased by 698.

Experience and item drops will double for a week.

The first monster killed of each type will drop the rarest item.

“It is a trap!”

Python pulled out his sword with surprise and Weed said calmly.

“Desert dungeons are originally like this. The entrances are blocked so we can't go out that way. The paths aren't complicated and we just have to go in a straight line to fight the monsters.

Pale calmly asked a question.

“How will the monsters come out?”

“Well, we just need to get rid of them or else they will stack up.”

Weed had come here during his days as ruler of the desert. At that time, he had found the dungeon but no one discovered it for a long time so the entrance had changed.

Now he could benefit from x2 experience from the monsters.

In the past, giant poisonous scorpions appeared so it was a fairly decent hunting ground. They were level 500 so it wouldn't have any effect on the high levelled desert king. But right now, the hunting party's level was in the 400s so it was a perfect hunting ground.

They were human companions, not sculptural lifeforms so they could take care of themselves.

Weed told his colleagues.

“This is a battle for survival while we drill our way out. If anyone slacks off or is in severe danger then I won't help you. At a minimum, decent proficiency in your skills are required.”

“What would happen if I did during it?”

“I will bring a new colleague.”

“I like this attitude!”

“I will go first. Follow me and take care of it.”

And the battle began!

Weed was familiar with the monsters due to their encounters in the desert but the others weren't.

The giant poisonous scorpion had a hard shell as armour. It quickly alternated between attacks with its two sharp claws and stinging tail. If they were hit by the stinger then their health would decrease by 20,000~30,000. The solid body and fast attack speed made it a dangerous and tricky monster.

On the other hand, they also had weaknesses. If the joints or connection between shells were attacked then it was surprisingly easy for them to lose their lives.

“Radiant Sword!”

Weed fought using a sword of light.

‘Accurately. There should be no mistakes. My level means that I stray attack can kill me.’

He needed to concentrate against the strong attacks of the giant poisonous scorpions. He had already used Sculptural Destruction to increase his vitality.

He purposely didn’t increase his strength or agility. Thanks to vitality increasing by at least 20 times, he wouldn’t become tired no matter how much he fought.

-The 8th continuous attack has succeeded.

The giant poisonous scorpion has been destroyed.

An incredible victory has been recorded.

Fame has increased by 1.

Due to handling the giant poisonous scorpion in the shortest amount of time, agility has increased by 1.

He saw the prey and ate it!

“Lululu!”

Weed’s battles were fast and accurate. It was much easier doing this again.

Although his attack power wasn’t comparable to when he was in the

desert, he used his experience to skillfully take advantage of their weaknesses.

Alveron and Pale were close behind Weed.

“Divine will, block the poison.”

Alveron used divine magic towards to attack the scorpion or used protection magic on his colleagues.

Alveron was the pope candidate of the Freya Church. Although his power couldn't be compared to Saint Ahellun, he was much stronger than general users.

Alveron's divine magic was used continuously and the effect was several-fold because of its purity. In addition, his sincerity meant he never slacked off.

“Piercing Ice Arrow!”

Pale fired an arrow at the mouth of the poisonous scorpion and it pierced through.

Tutututung!

It went through the bodies of 5 giant poisonous scorpions in a row.

“Weed-nim!”

“I know.”

Weed smashed his sword against the frozen bodies of the giant poisonous scorpions. He wore the Daemon Sword instead of the sword made by the red dragon, the Red Star In the case of the Red Star, its nature meant that he needed to minimize its use while taking advantage of the weak points during hunting.

Kwajajang!

-The critical hit was successful.

The frozen monsters have received full damage.

12 times the damage has been shown.

The monster has been removed.

1 combat fame has been acquired.

Arrows with ice magic were quite expensive but it ensured there was the effect of ice magic.

Weed, Alveron and Pale quickly passed through a cave of giant poisonous scorpions. The scorpions dug out from the ground, through walls or repelled down from the ceiling.

Van Hawk and Torido were also summoned in order to help.

“Hrmm, I like this. I’ll take care of it!”

Python belatedly pulled out a greatsword and followed. He didn’t use any sophisticated techniques on the giant poisonous scorpions. He just used a tremendous amount of power to smash the poisonous scorpion.

An ordinary monster wouldn’t be able to deal with the power of his greatsword. Despite the hard shell being intact, there was still cumulative damage.

“The health of the monster is lower than it seems. Well, perhaps I just fought really well?”

“Don’t eat ramyun without drinking the soup. It will be starting from now on.”

Python was surprised to see the giant poisonous scorpions in the area. The scorpions covered the walls, ceiling and floor.

‘You really can’t go back in this dungeon. In the worst situation, we will be trapped.’

Python controlled his spirit. He attacked any scorpions running or jumping towards him. If he didn’t properly hit the giant poisonous scorpion then he would pay the price.

The nameless man melted into the shadows. He showed up behind a red scorpion and accurately stuck a dagger into the underbelly.

It was an assassin’s typical attack pattern so none of his hunting

colleagues were surprised. An assassin was a profession that tried to hide themselves as much as possible. By wearing casual clothes inside a dungeon, it couldn't be determined if they were magicians, priests, thieves or assassins.

Weed's movement speed didn't acknowledge the people who accompanied him for the first time.

"Slow. A second yawn is already emerging so move more quickly."

'Then...'

'Right now this is considered slow?'

They were walking fast enough to be called a run in the dungeon. There was no time for scouting, let alone a break or leisurely chat.

They just ran into the middle of a monster infested place being moving on. Python and the nameless man followed behind while managing their health, vitality and mana.

If they drained their mana using a wide area skill then it would take longer dealing with a group of giant poisonous scorpions.

Whenever Weed slowed down, Pale would support him by shooting arrows. The monsters were overflowing and they had no time to linger. Loot and experience points were acquired from the fights.

It was a huge performance with the best results but Alveron's divine magic was also incredible. Their hands and feet quickened and hunting speed improved. They started cooperating and soon passed through the dungeon.

'I am dumbfounded. Originally I didn't believe in my colleagues.... Normally their bodies would stiffen in a dangerous place like this with so many monsters. If they are only concerned about being safe then hunting speed would lower.'

Python had experienced many such cases in other hunting parties. Due to the sudden emergence of strong monsters, they couldn't exert their skills. But in this place, there was no one who had a problem with

fighting spirit.

Despite the completely dangerous dungeon, everyone did their share.

‘At this rate, I can get stronger really quickly. If I had such good teammates in the early days of Royal Road then I would be 40 levels higher than I am now. It would have been possible to make a breakthrough in the dungeon.’

He was trying to understand Weed’s hunting speed. Weed entered a dangerous area and just hunted through everything.

Python didn’t even have a brief moment of space during the battle as he paid attention to Weed in the corner of his eyes.

Weed stabbed the head of the giant poisonous scorpion with his sword. The giant poisonous scorpions in the depths of the cave were intimidated by the continuous attacks. Three or four continuous attacks aiming for the critical points resulted in the scorpions being defeated.

While fighting the dangerous enemies in the lead, Weed also grasped the movement of his colleagues.

The party leader was maximizing hunting efficiency so he just believed that that they would follow him.

‘I don’t think that he is particularly stronger than me but his stats are brilliantly placed and well trained. Various skills are utilized depending on the situation.’

Python was someone doing the Warrior Master Quest on the Versailles Continent and had faced many enemies.

He couldn’t believe a sculptor had such great strength and vitality. Weed used the secret sword technique Sword-cloning, Radiant Sword or Heriam Fencing depending on the situation.

‘This is the electrifying strength of the ruler of the desert. And he has demonstrated the ability to make improvised and instantaneous decisions. Can I also fight like that?’

It was hard for Python to draw a conclusion. He also needed to consider

the effects of Alveron's divine magic.

But he had to finish some of the monsters. He had confidence that he could get rid of the monsters.

However, he couldn't help feeling suspicious of Weed.

'He is much tougher than other high level users. My level is 465 so perhaps he is a bit higher than that. A sculptor is sure to have some weak stats. Though not all of his skills have been revealed... Well, my combat capabilities are also beyond my level. I would love to watch him fight more.'

He used every opportunity to look at Weed. The Versailles Continent's top ranked players like Bardray and Weed were his competitors.

Of course he had to use this opportunity to closely watch Weed's combat.

'I am capable of killing him in a surprise ambush. My hands itch. But is this really the power of Weed the God of War? The charismatic figure I saw in the videos of his battles hasn't appeared yet.'

The two men thought like that. They thought they could take him. Weed was currently exerting the biggest attack power.

He couldn't hunt properly for a long time due to the final secret sculpting technique quest. He neglected his skills and his level also dropped.

He had overwhelming strength during his days ruling the desert but the weakness he felt after coming back to reality gave him a bittersweet feeling.

"We will start hunting more quickly. There is a bigger risk so please take care of your health. There will be more monsters."

"That...when is break time?"

"We will rest after clearing the dungeon and going towards the next hunting ground."

"Dinner?"

“Eat grain bread while moving.”

The man lurking in the shadows showed up.

“How long is the travel time?”

“3 minutes.”

“.....”

After 2 hours, they reached the mid-point of the dungeon and said.

“Oh, I realized that I didn’t tell you something important. Please note. There is a boss monster level 500 that is near here.”

“Shouldn’t we avoid a monster like this?”

The nameless man asked the question. A level 500 monster was normally hunted with a guild.

“Its balance isn’t good. It is like the rice cake for ancestral rites. It is something to eat before the main dish. In particular, its skin is quite useful.”

“But if we make one mistake then our lives will be at risk. How should we prepare for the fight?”

“Don’t make any mistakes. You aren’t children so each one of you should take care of your own lives.”

Pale was already firmly prepared. He knew from hunting with Weed that he had to be alert every minute.

Pale also felt a tremendous sense of accomplishment from the incredible speed of the hunt. Achieving an unreasonable goal caused him a sense of joy.

‘Weed the God of War. Hmmm, as amazing as the rumours. Weed finishes the hunt with great efficiency. I am probably benefiting from Weed.’

‘Heh, a shadow of death that kills that huge monsters. Normally I would need to get rid of it with a small, elite group of assassins.... Anyway, I am achieving this level of success with Weed.’

But soon they heard Weed muttering in a frustrated voice.

“The first place I chose was too easy.”

“.....”

“Well, the monsters in the next dungeon are twice as strong and their most difficult attribute is their high health. Endure the boredom a little more since the next place is likely to be fun.”

“What type of difficult does the next hunting ground have?”

“It is similar to the level of kimchi fried rice.”

Great Emperor Weed!

The biggest driving force behind his success in the final secret sculpting technique quest was the hunting abilities of Weed and his subordinates.

Python and the nameless man could understand why the desert warriors were so strong.

‘Heh, he is bluffing. It is probably only a little bit trickier.’

‘He is just making noise in advance. He is just trying to make us worry.’

And Pale’s thoughts.

‘I will be dead for a few days. It would be nice if I lose consciousness and wake up after the hunt is over!’

Chapter 6: Alkazar Bridge

United Kingdom, London.

Senior executives of international investment companies, property managers and wealthy people were gathered in one place.

They had put together an astronomical amount of funds. The royal family of the Middle East, European aristocrats, oil and conglomerates were some of the sources of the money for their operation.

“The next thing is to expand our influence in Unicorn Headquarters. First of all, the last attempt failed.”

“How many shares do we currently have?”

“We mobilized several accounts and companies and obtained 4%.”

“Only that much.....”

The executives of the international investment companies sighed. They didn't need more money. If they wanted to cause a war, a financial crisis or cause remarkable economic development in a country, all of it was possible.

Nevertheless, it was impossible to get a hold on Unicorn Corporation.

Unicorn was dominating and obtaining money from virtual reality. The current stock value of the company was steadily rising and its affiliates were sparking a ridiculous revolution in other industries.

The shipbuilding industry was in an overall recession but Unicorn had pushed inventory forward 15 years. Ships that had fuel economy and speed beyond those currently existing. It would be worth it in 3~4 years.

The competitiveness of marine plants and oil drilling could be considered the highest in the world. Chemicals, pharmaceuticals, new materials, robots, precision machinery, etc. They caused winds of interest to blow in all those areas.

The affiliates raised the market capitalization of Unicorn Corporation who serviced Royal Road. That's why interest increased in Unicorn

Corporation.

“The shares for Unicorn are at such an exorbitant price that it is impossible to secure ownership through market trading.”

“What about corporate bonds?”

“It isn’t planned and they don’t need it in the future. Even if we identify Unicorn’s core affiliates, the amount of money we have isn’t enough to eat them.”

“That can’t be.”

“J.K.I. in the past. We have to take the financial group’s failure as a lesson. We can’t touch it carelessly.”

“The amount of funds used for that operation is amazing.”

Capitalists wanted to touch Unicorn Corporation.

If necessary, politics could be used to place pressure on companies but Unicorn’s vast social network meant it wasn’t possible. In addition, representatives of Unicorn were secretly lurking in leading banks around the world.

The first time they noticed such movement was 1 year ago.

J.K.I. The financial group had obtained 20% of Unicorn’s shares and tried to threaten them. In order to buy the shares, the amount of funds necessary was equivalent to a country’s budget. After securing 20% of the shares, they combined with other equity funds and investment banks in order to threaten the funds.

They fought hard but Unicorn didn’t consider it a serious crisis. However, Unicorn Corporation had started the full-scale counterattack.

J.K.I. The corporate customers of the financial group started to depart in a chain reaction. Stories about the financial groups corruption and accounting manipulation was released to the media and management was punished.

They could no longer afford to fight Unicorn, let alone recover to their original state. The media continued to attack and the investors withdrew

their funds until they were on the very of bankruptcy!

J.K.I who had a 105 year history accumulated losses in real estate and business. The financial group shattered and was dismantled.

The international investment breaks investigated and revealed Unicorn's deep interest. As it turns out, Unicorn had invested many secret funds into the investigation.

They internally took control of major banks and was also influential in politics and journalism. A large number of multinational companies were directly or indirectly controlled by Unicorn Corporation.

Even if there were no formal agreements with Unicorn Corporation, they would be under their control. Companies and individuals. Many of the actual shareholders were hidden through an artful concealment process.

Since then, most of the international investment banks gave up on their desire to buy Unicorn Corporation.

The more dangerous the fruit was, the tastier it would be. But they learned that money wouldn't penetrate the company.

J.K.I. The financial group was thoroughly dismantled and became a tight cage for them. Since then, several companies were smashed by Unicorn Corporation. No matter how much money they had, it was impossible in front of such power.

All hostile movements were discovered by Unicorn's information network. They couldn't trust their colleagues.

The capitalists in Chicago thought a little differently. 'There is no point digging at the company. If so, what about inside Royal Road?'

It was an established fact that the Hermes Guild would conquer the continent. They would manage the territories according to merit and ability. They could gain huge taxes and exert power going forward.

Royal Road was made with superior technology as a resort where humanity could feel fun. Currently the number of users was exponentially increasing so there would be more value in the Emperor of the Haven

Empire and Royal Road.

‘Then should we invest in the Hermes Guild?’

The strong Hermes Guild!

Capitalists invested money in the Hermes Guild and allocated them a number of shares. The Hermes Guild now had control over the large Haven Empire so it wasn't a loss. They had already secretly earned a large amount of funds.

They recognized how profitable it was and invested a large sum to help the Hermes Guild dominate the Versailles Continent. Some major investors welcomed this plan.

Once the Hermes Guild unified the Versailles Continent and achieved a steady income then the future prospects would be very bright. Moreover, some investors could see the additional effects of the Haven Empire having power on the Versailles Continent.

Money would help to raise their standing in Royal Road.

Although the leaders of the Hermes Guild showed a positive response, the Hermes Guild had certain conditions.

From the very beginning, their goal to conquer the Versailles Continent had always been closely related to money.

The Hermes Guild predicted that Royal Road would have vast popularity across all ages and countries. They started earlier than others and prepared a lot of achieve the unification of the continent.

Individuals in the guild that received a lot of investment could easily obtain a fortune. Even after the unification, they still needed to continue ruling the continent.



Geomchi, Geomchi-2 and Geomchi-3.

They led their respective troops and met at Pato Castle.

Pato Castle had been built by the Haven Empire after invading the

Rupoi Plains. By mobilizing slaves, they finished construction of a stone castle where they could monitor the Rupoi river and plains.

Geomchi sat on a black bull on a hill as the sun set.

“Our goal is that place.”

“Well, that’s great.”

Geomchi-2, Geomchi-3, Geomchi-4 and Geomchi-5 also rode the bulls.

The broad shoulders, thick neck and excellent abs! The students behind them gave off a menacing sight. Users could often be seen running away from them screaming on mountain trails or dark paths.

“Today we will take care of this. Let’s go, everyone!”

“Yes! Follow Teacher-nim!”

They spoke as knights of the Arpen Kingdom.

In fact, they had been finding it boring fighting monsters.

“Kkiyahu!”

“Uryaryarya!”

Geomchi led the assault with 505 bulls following behind him!

They weren’t stupid in fights. Despite dying of hunger in Royal Road due to barely bread or recklessly fighting a dragon.

‘They will be prepared for us.’

‘Those guys will start moving soon.’

They learned by studying strategies and tactics. From an early age, they had been called many names by their parents and teachers.

‘They have noticed.’

Geomchi who was in the lead felt something.

“The enemy has appeared!”

“Get ready for crossfire!”

And not surprisingly, 2,000 archers got up from Pato Castle’s walls and

simultaneously aimed their bows!

“Just rush.”

Geomchi said to the bulls behind him. They were rushing so it was already too late to avoid the arrows.

Therefore, the students made the bulls run even more vigorously.

“Fire!”

Syu syu syu syu syuk!

Reinforced steel arrows flew from Pato Castle's walls.

Among the archers were those with 'sniper' as a secondary profession. Their destructive power in times of war was huge since they could penetrate armour and shields.

General users sometimes didn't like body armour or shields. Those who didn't have a knight profession didn't wear body armour due to discomfort and physical strength.

Full body armour was expensive and difficult to manage. A few thousand gold went into armour so they would cost a lot to repair if damaged during combat.

Therefore, light weight armour or leather armour was the favourite target of the snipers.

“Everyone use Sword-cloning!”

Geomchi gave a command as the bulls ran.

“Sword-cloning!”

A secret sword technique. It was a skill that could produce up to 40 clones.

“Iyahahap!”

Geomchi, the instructions and the students each produced between 10~30 clones each.

The clones didn't ride bulls and ran using the power of their two feet so

there was a momentarily large army!

The arrows that came flying mainly hit the clones.

“Unbelievable!”

“Monsters!”

The snipers panicked and just fired their arrows. The students that were hit fell to the ground. But the remainder continued forward.

“Those guys have arrived at the 2nd defense line. Open the gate and dispatch the knights!”

The wooden gates temporarily installed at Pato Castle opened wide. And 3,000 elite knights emerged.

They were regular knights of the Haven Empire waiting for the 500 members of the Kill Without Asking porridge unit.

Bbuuuuuuh!

The knights started to accelerate out the gates as the horn blew. The knights wore full body armour.

They charged towards the Kill Without Asking porridge unit.

“These unknown bastards. We’ll show them what happens when they resist the Hermes Guild.”

The Barit Knights were elite troops that had won many battles. They had played a major role during the conquest of the Kallamore Kingdom. Their power increased while sprinting.

The knights that belonged to the Hermes Guild had a rough idea of the situation going forward. Normally enemies would be scared at the emergence of the Barit Knights and turn to flee. During that vulnerable moment, they would use their power to trample and slash at the enemy.

Geomchi said calmly.

“Hey everyone.”

“Yes, Teacher-nim.”

“Extend yourself!”

At the same time, Geomchi pulled out a bow. He just ignored the archers from Pato Castle firing arrows towards them. The arrows would be dangerous if they hit the body but this was the fun thing about battles! After Geomchi’s instructions, the instructors and students all took out a bow.

While hunting and adventuring, they had acquired a variety of bows ranging from crossbows to longbows. Unfortunately, their increase clones could only hold swords.

“Fire!”

They indiscriminately fired towards the knights! The arrows were launched rapidly without consulting each anyone. In rare cases, there were a few ice, fire or wind arrows mixed in.

“Kueok!”

“Shield!”

The Barit Knights blocked the arrows with their shields. The horses collapsed and some knights were stunned by the impact of falling.

“Raise your spears in preparation for the clash...euaack!”

A user of the Barit Knight giving a command was surprised.

Once the arrow attack was over, the Kill Without Asking porridge unit was only a short distance away. They had removed the shield protecting their body but this time axes flying could be seen.

Axes, arrows and spears.

Geomchi, the instructors and the students interchangeable threw their weapons depending on their mood!

It was a proficient style of combat that desert warriors used. Heavy armour was inconvenient and the effect would fall when attacked with many types of weapons.

In fact, the nobles knights respected the sword and spear and didn’t like

using other weapons.

“S-stop them!”

The Barit Knights were troubled by the axe and spear attacks. They had a completely different weight from arrows. If the axe bounced off the shield then it would just damage a knight nearby.

The formation was a mess when the Kill Without Asking porridge unit arrived in front of the knights.

“Slice and drop them!”

“Yeet!”

Geomchi-2, Geomchi-3, etc., followed behind Geomchi.

“Sword that Cuts Anything!”

Horses, people, shields and armour would be cut every time they wielded their sword. If the strike was successful then it would do 55 times more damage to the enemy. It was an unbeatable technology when used properly and broke weapons or dealt serious injuries.

The attack skill was risky by Geomchi and the instructors boldly used it.

The knights that didn't know the circumstances just felt a tremendous assault force and lost their lives.

“Kilkilkil, meat!”

“Should I have a meal or sleep?”

“W-women. Take a look. How cool!”

“This is life. All the attacks, bring it on!”

The clones also rushed towards the knights. The clones also had sword skill proficiency. Geomchi, the instructors and the students brandished their swords against the knights.

“These guys.....”

The knights were quasi-nobility of the Haven Empire. The Barit Knights' great honour and pride failed in front of the Kill Without Asking

porridge unit.

On the walls of Pato Castle, the commander Banrommel and users of the Hermes Guild weren't laughing.

"These guys have considerable power. The Barit Knights are a little bit inferior to them."

"We should move before it becomes more dangerous for the Barit Knights."

"Mobilize immediately."

8 knight units appeared on the Rupoi Plains. They were part of the 5th knights division of the Imperial Knights.

They couldn't allow the Barit Knights to be completely annihilated by the Kill Without Asking porridge unit.

"Fight!"

The assault of the knights began. Banrommel's knights were wearing red armour with flames on it. Due to the magical effect of the armour, the flames would last forever.

Armour infantry exited from the gates and joined the Barit Knights. More snipers were placed on the wall. In the beginning, they had regarded the opponents as easy and allowed them to go close.

Geomchi, the instructors and students were surrounded by knights! It consisted of the elite armed forces of the Haven Empire. They feared that the Kill Without Asking porridge unit would flee so they hurriedly surrounded them.

The snipers on the wall fired straight shots towards the Kill Without Asking porridge unit.

"Kueok!"

A arrow became stuck in Geomchi-2's shoulders.

"No. 2."

"Teacher-nim, I am okay."

“You’re not hurt?”

“Teacher-nim would be mad if I was hurt by something like this.”

Geomchi felt the pleasure of the sword.

This was the battlefield. It was a place where his wishes could come alive. The Haven Empire had encircled them to stop any escape but he had no intention of fleeing.

“Everyone listen.”

“Yes!”

“Let’s heartily enjoy this.”

“Of course!”

Geomchi, the instructors and the students struggled against the constantly surging knights and enemies.

Arrows were shot in their backs as they charged into the midst of the heavy infantry and knights. Despite the fact that they had the worst position, they willingly fought on this battlefield.

10~20 trainees died quickly. They couldn’t withstand being battered from all sides.

And eventually, the only one who survived was Geomchi-5! He lived the longest thanks to the sacrifice of the other instructors and students.

An enormous 6,000 knights of the Haven Empire had been killed wiping out the Kill Without Asking porridge unit. They had a hard time due to the ruthless attacks by Geomchi, the other instructors and students.

Banrommel appeared above the walls.

The snipers and knights carrying spears aimed at the final survivor, Geomchi-5.

“Last survivor, do you want to say some final words?”

Banrommel said from the wall. He had wanted to avoid a frontal confrontation against the Kill Without Asking porridge unit.

Nevertheless, he wanted a cool ending for Geomchi-5.

Geomchi-5 just laughed brightly, revealing his buck teeth.

“How funny. We will fight again later!”



Hermes Guild users in the major cities of the Haven Empire gathered together for dinner.

“The glory of the Haven Empire will continue forever!”

“Hooray Haven Empire!”

The guild mobilizing half of its power against the Abyss Knight Van Hawk was a great event. The general users were easily mobilized at a great capacity and showed their power in Cocoon Valley.

Weed’s adventures showed him struggling along but the Hermes Guild showed the strong power of their high level users in a landslide victory. The performance of the Hermes Guild was broadcasted so no one could doubt it.

Due to the defeat of the Abyss Knight, the rebel activity in the Haven Empire was suddenly withdrawn.

“Every corner of this land must accept the Haven Empire.”

“The Kallamore Kingdom is no more. They will completely adapt to the reign of the Haven Empire. This is a good business opportunity.”

The attitude of the residents in the conquered area towards the Haven Empire completely changed.

The Abyss Knight crisis had been overcome so the Hermes Guild thought this was the perfect opportunity.



High level users in the Haven Empire were called for a banquet at the Imperial Palace. There was an unlimited amount of the finest brandy from Ipia Island.

Even the lords of the Hermes Guild who weren’t over level 440 weren’t

allowed to attend the banquet.

“Now only the north is left.”

“There is also the east and the south. The Embinyu Church has declined significantly so I am quite greedy for the east and the south.”

“Having said that. After the north surrenders, the east and south will come into our hands more easily.”

The Rosenheim Kingdom and Brent Kingdom had been revived after the Embinyu Church was destroyed. The collapsed palace was rebuilt and the original residents returned.

Serabourg Castle that had previously been occupied by the Embinyu Church was used for many users to move between the north and the east.

The Embinyu Church hadn't even entered the south. The religion of the desert warriors was the blazing sun and sand.

Thanks to Weed's adventure in the southern desert, the oasis cities were now the target of the Haven Empire. The desert warriors were tough but they wouldn't be able to resist an army.

The Hermes Guild had a tremendous appetite and wanted to expand their territory into the forest of elves and the dwarf territory in the Central Continent.

The kingdom of humanity was going to reign everywhere.

This result was achieved by spending an astronomical amount of the taxes they reaped. The Haven Empire's Imperial Palace had the jewels and golden decoration increased every day.

A handful of high level users watched as Bardray and Lafaye quietly talked to each other.

“But will we definitely win the war in the north? We don't have room to send any more power to the north.”

“Weed's reputation isn't groundless. If there is an unexpected counterattack then the Hermes Guild might receive some damage.”

“The incident at Jigolaths caused a huge headache.”

People nodded. They couldn't take Weed lightly. Of course, he was annoying but they didn't think he was scary.

Weed might revive like a weed but the Hermes Guild would crush him. Like an egg was unable to break an impregnable fortress, he couldn't catch up to feats done but the Haven Empire who had a strong economic and military power.

One of the high level users laughed.

Penatul! He was ranked in the top 300 people on the Versailles Continent.

“Lafaye said something after the battle against the Abyss Knight ended. There is no way we can lose the war in the north.”

“That means....”

“I don't know what he is planning but Lafaye must be confident to speak such words.”

The Hermes Guild recognized that Bardray was their focal point. However, there were no doubts when it came to Lafaye's ability to lead the guild.

Lafaye must have prepared some things in order to be confident of their victory in the north. And if the Earth Palace was conquered then Weed no longer had the forces to oppose them.

The Versailles Continent would perfectly enter the hands of the nobles of the Haven Empire.



The Northern Expeditionary Force of the Haven Empire.

The army was advancing towards the Earth Palace. The Peshil River was shrouded in early morning fog. A bridge of a massive scale was connecting both sides of the river.

This piece of architecture was the greatest thing that surprised the

Hermes Guild since entering the north.

The Central Continent was economically richer but it would be hard for them to create something like this. It was because it required a lot of money, manpower and time.

“If we cross this river then the Earth Palace will be visible.”

“Once the preparations for war are finished...there is high morale. Especially after the victories in the southern part.”

“The soldiers should have a sufficient amount of rest.”

The Hermes Guild commanders had thoroughly prepared the army after Weed appeared at the Earth Palace.

The soldiers were given a break to release the accumulated fatigue while new supplies were imported.

The cavalry and knights even used mana stones to buy one time magical items. They weren't frequently used because it was an expensive price for an item that could only be used once.

Despite wanting to march immediately, this task consumed half a day. However, they were perfectly ready for an overwhelming victory against Weed and the Earth Palace.

Any commanding officer in an army would dream of leading a huge and powerful army. Excellent knights in Royal Road could lead their men to fight the enemy without a hitch.

Of course, it wasn't easy for individuals to affect the outcome once the scale of the battles increased to a war between kingdoms. Even so, there were occasions when people would become widely known through the battlefield.

Being a commander or a knight appearing on broadcast would increase their fame. But any skilled commander wouldn't just rely on the power of the army.

Wonderful tactics could give assurances in wars. A commander could clearly overpower a small troop with larger numbers.

“Besides, this fight with Weed isn’t like the one against the Abyss Knight. “The leaders have considerable interest in this battle.”

“This time it is our turn to be heroes.”

After the battle with the Abyss Knight was settled, the northern conquest army quickly advanced. They killed the Grass Porridge Cult members swarming like flies until they reached the Alkazar Bridge.

“If it wasn’t for this bridge then we would have to go back. I’m glad. This is the virtue of the north’s transportation network that was developed.”

“Tell the soldiers to move faster. We will reach the vicinity of the Earth Palace tomorrow evening and then a full-fledged siege would start in the morning.”

“The siege weapons need to be assembled and the soldier should have a lot of rest at night. Given Weed’s leadership skills, the soldiers need to have the maximum morale.”

“A few days later, we will have a toast inside the Earth Palace.”

The commanders sent troops onto the Alkazar Bridge. The bridge was wide enough to allow carriages to pass by in both directions.

The scouting unit rode until the end of the bridge and came back to report.

“There are none. I don’t see any enemies at all.”

“In the river?”

There was a chance that the northern users had planned an ambush in the river.

“It is clean and clear. The only things visible are the pretty fish.”

“Good. Then the 2nd division will enter first.”

“I will go ahead and clean the place.”

The 2nd division was composed of infantry and magicians and were configured for defense. They would cross to the other side of the river and

secure the area for the rest of the army.

Soon after the 2nd division, the main army started moving across the bridge.

“The 1st division will carry the battle materials.”

“The supply carriages will pass through the bridge first.”

An incalculable amount of materials required for the northern conquest was moved to the other side of the bridge. The goods were preparation for the war against Weed so the 1st division took a fairly long time to move them across.

Dozens of troops sat on the carriages or walked alongside them. The users of the Hermes guild sitting on horses or the carriages admired the view of the river from the Alkazar Bridge.

“This bridge is crossing a great river. Something not possible in the Haven Empire is present in the Arpen Kingdom.”

“I think so as well. This bridge is quite comfortable, durable and well made. Without this bridge, people travelling to and from the north would go through a lot of suffering.”

“It is good that we can use it. No matter how good the roads or infrastructure is, the weak don't have the right to benefit from it. If the military power is too weak then they will be deprived of it.”

“Kukuku, we sure are lucky to be in the Hermes Guild.”

The Hermes Guild users naturally enjoyed the benefits that came from being stronger than everyone else. That power would eventually be used to capture and reign over the entire Versailles Continent.

“There are even excellent decorations carved on the pillars. They just caught my eyes.”

“Later I should buy land in the vicinity. The trade between the Central Continent and the North Continent means that this area would quickly grow.”

“I'm going to use the money earned from plundering in order to open a

dress shop.”

The users watched the lights of Yusellin Village and imagined a sweet future after the conquest.

Ddiring!

-You have crossed Alkazar Bridge.

Alkazar Bridge connects the Peshil River and was completed by the Arpen Kingdom.

All accumulated fatigue during the move is fully recovered.

Vitality has increased by 30%, you can continue to fight for a long time and the possibility of fatigue during hard work will decrease for a day.

The skill Quick Step has been applied.

Movement speed won't reduce for 3 days.

Horses will be able to exert a maximum effect for a week.

Due to experiencing a special place, agility has permanently increased by 2.

Alkazar Bridge is one of the Northern Continent's specialties.

If you go to another kingdom then you can obtain for reporting this amazing place to nobles.

“Ohh, really?”

“Completely excellent.”

The Hermes Guild users were filled with great admiration.

Alkazar Bridge was a Grand Building. The total construction cost was 8.5 million gold and architects hammered at it for 4 months in order to create it.

“We will control this bridge later.”

“I really like taking away someone else's hard work by force.”

The users of the Hermes Guild that had crossed the bridge hesitantly sat down on the ground. The main body of the army hadn't come across

yet. A considerable amount of time was required in order to cross the river.

“But it would be amazing if the bridge collapsed.”

“You idiot, there is no way it will collapse. This is a Grand Building.”

“I suppose so.”

Kukukukukung.

At that moment, a large irritating sound came from the bridge.

“W-what?”

The attention of the chatting Hermes Guild users headed towards the Alkazar Bridge. They were shocked by the sound but nothing happened.

“Did I hear wrong?”

“No, I’m sure that I heard it.”

“I heard. It is like the sound of stones rubbing together.”

“Did some fool crash a carriage?”

“It is no big deal. I’m going to take a nap so wake me up if something happens.”

The users started talking again but the deafening noise was heard for more than 1 minute.

“It sounds like it comes from the bridge.”

“Is the bridge singing?”

“This is fascinating. A Grand Building is capable of such a thing.”

The users watched the Alkazar Bridge. And the same scene appeared in all their eyes.

Usually a huge building absolutely wouldn’t move. It was solid and grand like a hill or mountain. But there was no common sense in it being destroyed now.

Cracks started in the pillars standing in the middle of the river and the steel strands that connected it started to break.

The Peshil River started sloshing with large waves. The troops watched with horror at Alkazar Bridge started severely shaking. High waves hit the pillar of the bridge and it started crumbling.

“Aaack! Help!”

The carriages carrying the material as well as the troops holding weapons fell down into the water. And after a while, the entire Alkazar Bridge crumbled into the river.

“That...”

“.....”

The users of the Hermes Guild who had crossed the bridge safely or had yet to cross watched with disbelief and couldn't accept the reality.

“Why did it collapse all at once?”

“Was this a bad bridge construction?”

The users couldn't understand how this had happened in such a short amount of time.

The commanders that didn't cross the river received reports of the damage.

“The 7th knights division fell into the river, 38,000 archers and approximately 6 days' worth of combat materials....”

“Enormous damage.”

“But it isn't an insurmountable one. There are plenty of battle supplies.”

The Haven Empire marched more than 2 million troops over the Poros River into the north. Despite the strong resistance of the north, the damage from the bridge collapsing could be handled.

The Hermes Guild users that fell in the river would drift downstream before making their way back.

Nevertheless, this was enough to put pressure on the battle commanders.

“I don't know how to report it to the guild.”

“It is only a matter of time before the damage we suffered is known. We must emphasize that we couldn’t predict the damage in advance.”

“If we want to be recognized then we have to hurry and destroy the Earth Palace.”

Despite only losing 150,000 of the Haven Empire’s army and 2,000 Hermes Guild users, the atmosphere was heavy and serious.

-You have been cut off from the main body of the northern conquest army.

The soldiers watching the disaster are severely shaken.

Morale has decreased by 45%.

The value of training is temporarily reduced by 22%.

Training and morale were key factors in a war.

If training was low then they wouldn’t follow commands well and low morale would decrease the fighting power.

“This is how it is. How will the main army cross here now?”

“Then should we cross over there?”

The Hermes Guild users who crossed the bridge and were lazily watching the scenery suddenly stood up.

Since coming to the north, they had only achieved overwhelming victories. They massacred those in the villages regardless of who they were.

In fact, if it wasn’t for the fact that the guild leaders wanted to rule the north then they would have thoroughly destroyed everything.

“Ya, I’m feeling anxious.”

“Surely the enemies won’t appear now? Perhaps they will.”

“But perhaps.....”

The users were having uneasy conversations.

The distant plains starting shaking.

“Waaaaaah! The bridge really collapsed.”

“Let’s get revenge on the Hermes Guild.”

“Let’s go! They’re not moving! I am Tokkung of the Toadstool Porridge unit. I will fight as long as I have the strength!”

“Tokkung has already died 7 times yet he is back!”

“Tokkung-nim, please be careful of everyone. Last time I almost died!”

The Grass Porridge Cult members that kept dying! Despite their losing streak, they persisted in fighting.

They weren’t disappointed by not having the power to defeat the invaders. The Hermes Guild and Haven Empire were strong but the northern users weren’t discouraged.

There were various sayings in the Grass Porridge Cult.

-Don’t eat if you are defeated, eat if victory is achieved when you die.

-Life is like a bowl of Toadstool Porridge. If you don’t eat it today then eat it tomorrow.

-Courage comes from the challenge itself. You can’t eat if you lose and you can eat if victory is achieved when you die.

-Don’t leave without cleaning this up.

The Toadstool Porridge unit served as the focal point of the Grass Porridge Cult. Their annihilation signaled the beginning of the battle!

In addition, the northern users ate grass porridge for their three meals a day as they worshipped the Arpen Kingdom and Weed. Naturally they were hostile towards the Hermes Guild.

“Those guys are coming here. They are weak but this situation isn’t good.”

“Then was the collapse of the bridge planned?”

“Surely not... No, did it really happen by chance?”

The faces of the Toadstool Porridge unit and Arpen Kingdom users

standing in the vanguard told a different story.

“We’ve finally arrived.”

“The moment we’ve been waiting for has come. Today is the day of vengeance!”

The knight users of the Arpen Kingdom had high honour and intimacy with the residents. It was easy to get quests related to the country and obtain a chance to build public achievements.

Many enjoyed preferential treatment and grew along with the soldiers of the Arpen Kingdom. The larger the kingdom, the more benefits that were attached to the knights. But if they lost all their honour, there would be a huge penalty and fighting spirit would be reduced.

Apart from participating in monster subjugation and war, there were other constraints.

Trade, production or other combat professions could migrate but knights that swore allegiance to a kingdom needed to stay loyal. In short, the knights had a duty of obedience to the king and the kingdom.

Despite the invasion of the Arpen Kingdom, Weed hadn’t allowed them to participate in the war. Weed had the final authority for all military power so the knights didn’t go out to fight for their kingdom.

Although the knight users took their own personal initiative to fight, the soldiers could only swallow their resentment.

1 knight entering a dungeon with 100 soldiers to subdue the monsters could have their power grow quickly. Improving the Arpen Kingdom’s vulnerable military power was essential.

But some knights couldn’t tolerate it anymore and came out.

“Those bugs are looking at us? Their fate is to be stepped on.

“Their skills can’t even touch my feet.”

The Hermes Guild laughed as their enemies appeared. Morale had fallen but they had defeated such opponents so far.

But dust was constantly growing on the plains!

“Let’s defeat the Haven Empire!”

Yusellin was emptied as users started to pour out. It was a tactic that never ended. It was at a level to defeat the enemies.

The sea of moving Grass Porridge Cult started to attack.

Seo-yoon was also among the knights and the Toadstool Porridge unit.

“Unni, unni hide behind me.”

“Is there a need to fight? You can’t kill them anyway.”

“I just want to contribute. So my friends can be proud of me.”

Seo-yoon joined the Bamboo Shoots Porridge unit to fight against the Haven Empire.

‘This situation seems to be against us.’

‘This isn’t a battle. I just need to kill 1,000 of them.’

‘Their formations aren’t polished. But I can’t deal with all these guys.’

Some of the Hermes Guild users experienced in war quietly went to the riverside. They took their armour off and swam across the river.

But they weren’t aware that there were also members of the Grass Porridge Cult in the deep river.

Cockle Porridge and Seaweed Porridge diving units! They held harpoons in their hands and waited for the prey.

A bunch of users were also waiting downstream of the Peshil River.

“A lot of those guys are going to come here right?”

“Of course. That person’s information can’t be doubted.”

Dark Gamers.

The Dark Gamers had flocked after receiving information from a post on the website.

A person had posted anonymously to go to Peshil River today. If they

waited then they could easily hunt users of the Hermes Guild.

Usually anonymous posts couldn't be believed but this time was different.

The anonymous user who wrote the post had a long period of activity with the Dark Gamers and had a separate nickname.

Gold Bug.

He always left comments hunting expensive weapons or jewelry.

-I have a story about a good hunting ground. At the current market price...and there will be a gang of youths complaining. I am very jealous.

-It can be served with a large pizza.

-I need to buy some pottery. Don't go come back with weapons. Bring pottery as well. If you go to the market in the back alley then someone will buy it from you. However, the owner will pay attention to those trying to attempt dirty bargains.

There was be a steady stream of money and items for the people who were interested.

He answered any comments left by others with the market price. Every once in a while, he would correct the wrong information with an explanation.

In particular, he was quite sensitive to the price difference of a few copper. He knew the detailed prices of equipment, precious metal and pieces of artwork.

He stopped some users from being ripped off. Therefore, the person's rating in the Dark Gamers Union continued to climb and there was high confidence in him.

-If you don't go downstream of the Peshil River today then you will regret it for a year.

It was among the secret Dark Gamers post that only 10% of the highest ranking members could read.

“We can believe it if it is from Gold Bug. Even if he deceived us, there will only be minimal damage.”

“When it comes to money, that guy is more reliable than my mother.”

Thus, 600 of the highest levelled Dark Gamers were waiting for their prey downstream.

“Coming!”

“There are many people. It is indeed a jackpot!”

Chapter 7: Sky Porridge Unit

Weed had been hunting for the last two hours.

‘This is somehow different from what I imagined. There is little battle sense?’

‘There really are a lot of monsters. Finding a place like this, he really has encyclopedic knowledge of hunting grounds.’

After 5 hours of hunting.

‘Euah, that was really dangerous. I bravely jumped at the enemies and only survived thanks to the priest. Isn’t this too much?’

‘It is dangerous due to the nature of the monster...an assassin really can live anywhere.’

9 hours since hunting started.

‘I almost died two times in a row. The hunting grounds aren’t on a train route so how is he leading us to successive ones? I want to rest. Fatigue has risen dramatically. My greatsword is too heavy. Isn’t it long past time for a break?’

‘This is the first time that I dedicated such a long time to hunting. My head is dizzy. Assassin? I’m sick of it. I’d rather wave a dagger around roughly in a fight.’

13 hours after hunting started.

‘The composition of this hunting party. Each person will carry out their mission like a machine. Machine. Until now, I lived really comfortably and happily.’

‘What is hunting? An assassin is a profession that is really helpful to society and is worthy of respect. Who am I? Where am I?’

They moved from dungeon to dungeon while fighting monsters. Fighting with monsters felt like a simple labour job.

Python and the nameless man both said.

“Let’s have a short break.”

“We should relax and talk to deepen our bonds.”

Weed said casually every time.

“We will find a comfortable place after cleaning up the dungeon.”

“So?”

“Well, let’s raise the speed a little bit.”

“...But that side looked good.”

They hunted for another 2 hours. They were exhausted after killing the monsters.

Until now, vitality and fatigue had only fallen slightly due to Alveron’s divine magic. Once 20% of their vitality was filled up, they would be dragged along on another hunt. The refreshing divine magic started to feel hateful for the first time.

Python and the nameless man sat on the ground with their faces soaking with sweat.

“Now I really have no choice but to rest. My health is almost gone.”

“You have suffered. And barely survived. If you don’t do this then you won’t be able to study at a prestigious university or win a nobel prize.”

“It’s not a joke. We have overcome the limitations of a human.”

Weed didn’t sit down on the ground. He still had plenty of vitality remaining due to Sculptural Destruction.

Humans would feel mentally tired after a long battle. But that didn’t apply to Weed. Carving sculptures would recover his health and mana quicker.

“This is moist and dark. The next dungeon is very pleasant. You can rest there.”

Python and the nameless man didn’t want to stand up. They were busy thinking of excuses in their heads.

“Don’t you want to have a meal and sleep in a comfortable place? The hard earned rest will be like honey after arduous hunting.”

“Kkuung.”

The two men forcibly moved their bodies at the thought of a long rest. And they arrived at an underground dungeon.

In some places, the desert sunlight entered and caused a bright place with a cool energy flowing. Like going to the bank during a hot summer.

Python and the nameless man sat on some flat rocks.

“Ah, I forgot to tell you an important fact..... I will say it now.”

“What is it?”

“This dungeon has monsters that live together. There are abundant water sources and prey in any form.”

“But?”

Python didn’t want to talk. They would handle them after resting and sleeping properly! They were sick of Weed’s useless talk about monsters.

“But they have an exclusive nature.”

“Exclusive?”

“They really hate intruders. And because of their intelligence.....”

Kaang! Kaang! Kaang!

Loud sounds were coming from the dungeon.

“The whole tribe will gather to go and repel the invaders.”

Python and the man could see many blue monsters filling the dungeon. The break ended and the battle began!

After this dungeon, they continued hunting, hunting and hunting monsters.

‘I was tricked.’

‘He is the devil.’

There was no possibility of lying down until all the monsters were finished. After a battle that lasted several hours, they didn't hesitate to flop down on the ground.

"I can't do it anymore!"

"I need a break. We are humans!"

The two men declared a strike. Even though it was Weed, they were determined not to hunt any longer.

"It is regretful. The next hunting ground isn't that busy."

"Whether it is true or not. I will take a break and then leave."

Python was tired of hunting. No matter how interesting it was, he felt tired. Weed hunted with extreme efficiency and mechanical repetition.

"Then I will see you later in Morata."

"Farewell. Later in Mora...huh?"

Python was speaking when he noticed something strange. This place was somewhere in the southern desert. And Morata was in the centre of the north.

The two men gazed at Weed who seemed to be laughing. It looked perfectly like a devil's laugh.

"Do you know the path back to Morata?"

"I don't know. Regrettably, I don't even know where this place is."

"The nearest town should be approximately a 10 days walk through the desert in that direction. There won't be any water in the middle so you will have to walk diligently while conserving your water."

"Will I die of thirst if I don't get there within 10 days?"

"The sun is very strong. It is easy to feel like your ankles are burning when walking in the hot desert sand. The monsters wandering around... will continue to pounce."

"....."

“And it was several hundred years ago so I can’t guarantee the city is still there. Anyway, if you are lucky enough to find a city and cross the desert then you will eventually get to Morata. So I will say goodbye here. I’ll see you later in Morata.”

The devil’s threat!

They couldn’t leave and had to continue participating in the hunt. Just like a mother dealing with unruly children, Weed’s threat was simple.

“Cruel and cowardly.....”

Python wondered if this whole idea of bringing them to the southern desert was a way to trap them. The devious plan to bring them to a remote desert area caused goose-bumps to form on his body.

“Isn’t it easier to keep on hunting? Hunting will raise your skill and experience. You can also acquire loot.”

They didn’t feel much empathy but they didn’t want to walk through the hot desert. So those that were mentally and physically tired toured the hunting grounds. Their eyes kept closing and mouth dripped saliva but they hung in there.

Python had thought that he wasn’t the type to receive commands from others.

‘He’s not a human. He keeps moving.’

‘My body is gradually adapting to it.’

They finally started to understand why people raved about Weed’s leadership. Whether it was colleagues or subordinates, he squeezed everything from them as they adapted and grew. They continued the extremely sad hunting as Weed recklessly moved forward.

‘I know that Alveron the priest candidate followed Weed because of his contribution and past ties but why is Pale? Why is he so calm?’

‘Pale is an archer in the same position as us. Why didn’t he protest once while hunting?’

Python and the nameless man wanted Pale to join them in a mass

protest. Pale was an archer with spectacular skills.

From the beginning Pale acted disinterested so they wanted to form a group with him to resist Weed. However, they both shook their heads the moment they saw Pale's face.

'Wrong. He already had a taste of it.'

'Perhaps that person's dry eyes....'



"Victory!"

"Grass porridge, grass porridge, grass porridge!"

"All northern users, cheers!"

"Kyaa! We gave those Haven Empire guys a taste of what it has been like."

An overwhelming victory at Peshil River!

Thanks to their internal network, the Grass Porridge Cult members cheered from every corner of the north.

"This might be premature but can we really beat back the Haven Empire's invasion?"

"If the entire north units then of course we can stop them."

The regular users felt gratitude to the Arpen Kingdom and participated in the war.

After the consecutive victories, the Grass Porridge Cult determined that the Haven Empire was truly strong.

In the case of the users who moved from the Central Continent, they were directly or indirectly aware of the power of the Haven Empire. Despite the whole north being shaken by the war, half of the users were still living as normal.

But now novices that freshly joined Royal Road, those with non-combat professions and Grass Porridge Cult members could participate in the war.

And.....

“Piyak! I guess I should move properly.”

“Ssajakjak!”

“Split up at regular intervals, kukuku!”

Sky Island Lavias.

The avians also joined the Grass Porridge Cult. Although many general users visited Lavias, the users who were avians had serious worries.

-Even if the avians join the Grass Porridge Cult, what unit will we join?

-The structure of the avians' beaks makes eating difficult so is there a solution? The unit the avians would want to join...crazy.

-Do the avians need to sign up for a branch when joining the Grass Porridge Cult? Isn't it the same as killing earthworms?

The avians lived above the continent. They lived freely on the continent and weren't constrained by the sea.

In the early days, many people flying over the sea would lose their power and fall into the sea. There was such a big attraction in flying that they didn't like landing on the ground.

They happily flew around as the morning sun came up and also watched the night sky. If they found an island or reef then there was also the freedom of eating fish.

However, those without any support could experience death on the seas. While the youths died, the seniors found a stable flight path or rested on the bows of ships. The sailors would throw fish to them while sailing.

The avian users happily living in the north were willing to join the war with the Haven Empire. The culture and spirit of the Grass Porridge Cult in the Arpen Kingdom was like a fairy tale to them.

Thousands of avians sat on branches around Lavias' main square. And there were those in the air. Due to the nature of the avians, they could use their wings to remain in the air for a while.

“We are the proud avians of Lavias, tweet tweet!”

“Grass porridge!”

“We fight for justice and take care of the weak.”

“Grass porridge!”

“We will attack the enemy with our hard claws and sharp beaks, our marvelous wings will bring us to victory.”

“Grass porridge!”

“Now, we have established a new combat group. Our name will be the Sky Porridge unit!”

“Grass porridge! Grass porridge!”

The creation of the Sky Porridge unit! They were a new combat unit that could dominate the ground and the sky.

The avians could move quickly over long distances and won't be affected by the features of a fortress. Their wings made structures obsolete and they could annoy the archers and magicians in the rear.

But the avians also knew their inherent limitations. The avians that were capable of sky combat were extremely beneficial in a war. They flew through the air so quickly that random attacks were difficult to hit.

However, arrows hitting the avians meant their deaths. They had a crucial weakness in fights. Since the species couldn't wear armour, their defense was really weak.

The avians' beaks couldn't penetrate human shields so armoured soldiers were significant against them. Even though they could peck the opponent several times, simply half a second would compromise them.

Of course, it was easy for avians to use bows during a war.

But in order to get in range to fire arrows at the enemy, they would be exposing themselves to the magicians' ranged attacks.

Ranged attacks like firebolt, thunderbolt and ice bolt were very effective long distance attacks against the avians.

Flying in the sky was a very delicate operation so receiving an injury on their wing would cause them to crash to the ground.

-I'm only level 40...the snakes are too scary that I haven't eaten.

-I haven't even gone outside the nest yet. My connection rate is low so I'm barely out of the egg.

-I picked the avian species to overcome my fear of heights. I'm afraid I will go crazy flying in the sky.

Those who just joined the avians were worried about doing well in the war. However, these weaknesses were soon overcome as the human users joined.

"You don't need to fight. You can simply drop us in the enemy camp!"

"We will charge towards the enemy. It will be much easier for you to fight in a crowded place."

"Well, I don't care if I live. It is sufficient if I die. I am part of the Toadstool Porridge Cult."

The northern users joined hands with the avians.

Despite being constrained by distance and enemy magicians, the avians were very strong and could deal significant damage. In addition, they could go beyond the enemy defenses.

The armed with bravery, Sky Porridge unit was created.



The incident that took place at Peshil River had a considerable psychological impact on the Hermes Guild.

The news was broken during the Haven Empire's banquet celebrating their victory against the Abyss Knight.

The incident caused damage to the absolute dignity of the Haven Empire.

"It is difficult. A bad incident has happened at this time."

Lafaye said softly towards the leaders of the guild. Lafaye hadn't made a

single mistake so far while leading the Hermes Guild.

Of course, it was impossible to predict the results of all humans in the future. Even if there was some damage, the guild would ultimately emerge successfully with many benefits.

Lafaye's influence over the guild was absolute. Bardray was at the centre of the guild's military power but Lafaye was the one who led them.

It was a concern because many people were divided between Bardray and Lafaye. If there was ever friction between the two leaders then the Hermes Guild would fragment.

But Bardray and Lafaye knew too well.

Bardray was like a blazing sun. Without darkness, the sun wouldn't shine for a long time. Lafaye led their group to obtain more power. They needed each other so a great split would never happen.

Of course, there was always an unforeseen possibility that two people could become hostile to each other.

But it was a fact that Royal Road was too large for one person to eat. There could only be one Emperor of Royal Road.

However, the influx of users would raise their value into the sky. A premature split would weaken the power of the Hermes Guild's Haven Empire, rather than bring about a more stable reign.

Lafaye and Bardray formed a consensus with each other and respected each other.

'He's not stupid. There are benefits in pushing him to the top. Once he is positioned as an Emperor.....'

'He's smarter than me. The Hermes Guild wouldn't have risen so quickly without Lafaye. The guild will weaken if Lafaye leaves. He knows the weaknesses of the guild so if he joins someone else...dangerous.'

In this world, it wasn't possible to blindly believe in people. The briefest temptation might make them feel like the other side was better. The two

people knew each other's minds so they wouldn't betray each other.

And the current Hermes Guild had become huge. The amount of investment couldn't even be imagined!

The Hermes Guild would obtain an absurd amount of money in the future from Royal Road and investment offers.

"But is that really their proposal?"

"Of course."

"I never thought about it. So much money...it is rather unbelievable."

"I thought there would be a similar offer once the Hermes Guild grew. I expected up to this amount."

"Will you accept?"

"I have no complaints about the amount of money. But it isn't necessary to grab their outstretched hands. It is better to talk to make it more favourable for us."

"It is good to accept the proposal before it breaks."

"I have considered that point."

Bardray, Lafaye and the core leaders couldn't refuse the offer.

The lure of money. They knew the value of 1 billion, 2 billion won but couldn't imagine it. It was on a completely different level. Their situation could be changed with money so they were nervous regarding the negotiations.

The amount and terms of agreement were all areas that Lafaye, Bardray and the core leaders paid attention to.

"But the architects are a big deal."

"We won't be defeated in this war. Well, it wasn't defeat but..."

The general users of the Hermes Guild were only paying attention to the unexpected incident. There was a discussion about sending additional troops to the north.

However, the leaders convened a meeting to determine what the policies.

An unexpected incident had taken place. Vast amounts of personnel and supplies had been poured towards the north.

They wanted a perfect victory but Lafaye and the leaders were too proud to send further troops. If they sent more troops to the north then the Hermes Guild users might feel more uneasy.

In addition, it would only take a few more days for the army to cross the Peshil River.

“It is normal to grasp the movements of the enemies so the other side obtained this type of information.

“Information is the pride of the Hermes Guild but our personnel is scattered through the north. Therefore, it is possible for some details to slip through our net.”

“I am interested in information about the architects.”

“The architects...they are useless in a war. If they dare invade the Haven Empire then they would be unsuccessful against our fortresses.”

The leaders reviewed their plan for the northern war and concluded that it was a sure victory. Weed was a difficult to predict variable but the gap between their power was too big.

Adventuring and war was certainly different. It wouldn't be that easy to defeat their powerful army. The leaders had also prepared a method to weaken the real power of the north.

Lafaye came to a conclusion about the war in the north.

“The war with Weed will take place in the next few days. And we can't be defeated. There will be a complete victory in the war as the Arpen Kingdom is destroyed. Then the Norther Continent will come under our reign.”

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

“So far, we've killed 890 people in the Bamboo Shoots Porridge unit.”

“Aren't the members of the Bamboo Shoots useless?”

“Their levels are low but they have a special influence, especially those with non-combat professions like miners and traders.”

“Then it will come in handy. What about the situation with the Toadstool unit?”

“The request to kill the individuals over level 350 has been completed. The preliminary success rate is high as 2,000 people were killed.”

“The Jujube and Acorn Porridge units are still a work in progress as they are maintaining their security towards those introduced.”

The Haven Empire had succeeded in spreading their information network through the north.

They continued to gather information and work from the shadows. Information could be used to enhance the reputation of the user, to progress in quests and to allow the Hermes Guild to know about other people. In many ways, it was a profession as the guilds promised them goods and money.

The Haven Empire had obtained detailed information about key figures in the north in order to assist in the conquest.

“But why is something like this necessary to win the war in the north?”

“The leaders seem to be considering the future reign after it is conquered. There might be severe resistance if the Haven Empire's subordinates are directly placed to rule.”

“But that still won't stop a revolt.”

“They will be immediately repressed by the army. First of all, it is important to gain as much information as possible about the key leaders at the Earth Palace.”

“If Weed is at the Earth Palace.....”

“We already have assassination squads from the Hermes Guild placed at the Earth Palace. Once the war starts, their goal will be Weed.”

The Hermes Guild were planning to take Weed's life once the battle at the Earth Palace started. Whether the war was won or lost, it was best to make sure that Weed didn't escape.

Everyone was well aware of Weed's superior survival skills. Weed had succeeded in his final secret sculpting quest and was now a nuisance to their plan for the north.

The Hermes Guild had decided to commit some major assassins in order to take care of Weed during the war.

The Haven Empire determined that Weed's death was sealed.



“Huhuhu.”

While Weed was hunting in the dungeons, he received the news that the Peshil River operation was a success.

Mapan watched the river from a tavern in Yusellin and notified him with a whisper.

“Listen, I just heard some good news.”

“What?”

Python who was sitting on the ground asked. He didn't have Weed's indomitable vitality and was completely exhausted.

They were so weary that they were almost wiped out a few times against the monsters if it wasn't for Weed.

Sculptural Destruction had pushed his vitality stat so that he wasn't even tired. In order to save his colleagues, he fought fiercely while being surrounded by monsters.

Python and the nameless man felt sick as they saw Weed's devilish smile.

“The Haven Empire's army has suffered a huge blow at Peshil River.”

“Oh, congratulations.”

“Good news.”

Python and the nameless man replied carelessly. They didn't care for the Hermes Guild and the Haven Empire. They experienced some friction with them on the Central Continent.

But they weren't sure why their guts twisted as they saw Weed's face.

Weed said with a bright smile.

"They won't have an easy time crossing the Peshil River. Now we can hunt for a few more days."

The tired complexion of three people became whiter.

Python, the nameless man and Pale weren't ready for such a situation. Pale barely managed to speak.

"Then there should be time to rest....."

"I've been looking for this opportunity. It is possible to wipe out all the dungeons in the desert."

"....."

Weed then dragged his colleagues to conquer the rest of the dungeons. The dungeons in the desert surpassed a meat buffet!

Van Hawk and Torido were also summoned in slightly tricky dungeons and Summon Sculpture was used to bring Yellowy and Goldman. Their power was customized according to the attributes of the dungeon.

But from now on, there was a generous amount of time between hunts to rest. Alveron's divine magic and eating delicious food meant that vitality could endure it. It was especially important in desert areas to control vitality and fatigue.

"Eat well. We will take a break for 3 hours. Eat your meals and comfortably lie down."

They all flopped down on the spot at Weed's words. In no time at all, Pale had joined Python and the nameless man's miserable company.

"We can finally relax for 3 hours."

"I'll say this. I don't know whether it is a trick or a treat."

“Maybe he needs some sleep. He is human.”

While the 3 people were chatting, Weed took out his Sculpting Knife. The necessary ingredients were in the sand around him.

He used the desert sand to make a solid sculpture before aging it. The sand sculpture collapsed slightly as it felt the effects of Time Sculpting.

-Absolute King

A sculpture of the great king of the desert area.

All tribes living in the desert can worship in front of the sculpture.

Artistic Value: 54

“Well, this place should be sufficient to create my sculptures I can continue to consecutively make sculptures. But what do my subordinates look like?”

He tried to remember the faces of Warrior-1, Warrior-2, etc., but he couldn't. He had already used them to the full extent!

Weed would use Sculptural Destruction on the pieces after the break ended. He didn't stop carving and trimming the sculptures during the break. Those forced workers watching were astonished.

Thus one day, two days passed.

Except for meals, toilet access and sleeping for 4 hours in reality, he spent the whole time in Royal Road hunting, sculpting and raising his skill proficiencies.

Even if his hunting partners weren't connected, there was no reason for him to rest. Time Sculpting could make a crucial difference in the war so it was important to raise it as much as possible.

But the rating of the final secret sculpting technique only climbed up little by little.

“Let's do what I can. Labour is necessary to make art bloom! Today's labour could reduce the time it takes to achieve my goal.”

The Haven Empire's army in the north struggled to cross the Peshil

River. If they wanted to bypass the Peshil River then they would need to go back quite a distance.

“We will send thousands of extra-large rafts across simultaneously. It should take a day for all the troops to cross to the other side of the river.”

The army commanders made the decision. In order to make rafts to cross the river, troops were dispatched to chop them thick trees. They thought it wouldn't be hard for the powerful knights to chop down the trees to make rafts.

“I thought there was a forest here.....”

“No, where are the trees on the mountains?”

The knights that came out to cut the trees were confused. The numerous forests they marched through were all gone. There were only ghostly traces of where the trees were planted.

“It is strange...let's take a look around.”

The knights conducted a search. And after a long time, they could finally find the trees. The trees were walking away on their roots that looked like legs.

It was the work of the elves! The elf users in the north moved the trees away.

“This! Kill the elves and report it to the main army!”

The northern conquest army spent more time than expected cutting down the trees. In the end, they had to transport the wood and it took them five days to assemble the raft.

However, they couldn't cross the river immediately.

The rain and wind caused the river to swell and they had to wait half a day.

“This is really....”

“We have bad luck.”

The Hermes Guild users watched the sky with resentment. They hadn't

thought of packing waterproof tents so the soldiers were exposed to the elements.

“The morale of the soldiers will fall.”

“I am more concerned about any sicknesses.”

The feeling of leading an army of soldiers was amazing for a commander. Commanding thousands of soldiers in an attempt to conquer a kingdom. Not to mention the pride and honour of conquering the north.

After the Alkazar Bridge collapsed and minor problems tied up the army, the patience of the commanders decreased.

The rain stopped and the sky became completely clear of any clouds.

The rafts of the Haven Empire crossed the Peshil River. The northern users desperately tried to stop them but the elite archers and magicians meant they could cross safely.

After 2~3 battles, the landing operation was stabilized and succeeded.

Due to the adverse terrain, they suffered a loss of 80,000 troops but the army and supplies all crossed the river.

Chapter 8: Great Emperor's Quest

Weed raised his level to 422 through hunting in the desert.

It was unbelievable quick growth but he benefited from the dungeons' double experience and diligent hunting.

Time Sculpting reached beginner level 6. He didn't get this result until 3 Magnum Opus emerged.

"Hmm, the skill really doesn't climb quickly."

It wasn't easy dedicated himself to the sculptures while recovering his lost levels.

"It would be good if there was a big reward at the end of the quest."

Occasionally they would visit the thriving cities around the oases and rivers in order to sell the loot.

"You've brought a lot of good items. It is my pleasure to transfer it over to warriors."

"How much are you willing to buy that necklace made of ivory for?"

"It is ivory so it will be at least 800 gold."

"In this situation, it is worth an extra 200 gold. I have already processed it."

"It is really great handiwork. I admit that the price is correct. Let's continue to trade in the future."

Weed was friendly with the merchants in the desert cities. The prosperous desert city had a completely different culture from cities in the Central and Northern Continent.

The strong warriors walked around showing their naked upper bodies. Water, cigarettes and art were luxury goods at the market.

Weed had left several sculptures in the desert cities that still remained intact. Traces of the Pallos Empire still remained. Various valuables looted on the Central Continent had been traded for precious metals.

“The population is increasing but there is a limitation to economic growth.”

Weed sighed as he walked around the desert city. He had been looking forward to the continued development of the desert areas.

However, the nature of the desert meant it wasn't convenient for farm or mine development. The cities also had to be built along oases and rivers.

In the past, the falling rain had made the desert area fertile but a lot of that water had dried up. There were the infested ruins of many abandoned land and cities.

Specialty crops were grown while food like rice, wheat and barley were brought to them. Nomads wandered around raising sheep and camels.

Traces of the Pallos Empire could be seen at the market but goods weren't very expensive.

“It is hard to live. The typical problem of youth unemployment hasn't been overcome. The desert warriors need to hunt in order to return the money. Only the mercenary industry remains.”

He could hear countless stories as he walked around the desert city.

“Are you interested in the treasures of the Pallos Empire? You can hear the information for 2,000 gold.”

Treasures of the empire!

Python and the nameless man were tempted but Weed and Pale didn't care. They knew that the treasures of the Pallos Empire were buried somewhere in the north. The problem was finding the treasure and determining its value. There were people excavating the treasure in the north right now.

“Uhh, Great Emperor Weed of the desert. The children of the desert grew up hearing his legend every day. My mother talked about him every night.”

“About what?”

Weed wondered if his reputation had changed.

“The Great Emperor of the desert is a person who causes blood to flow. He left after advancing the desert into the continent. He founded the Pallos Empire during what we call the golden age of the desert.”

“A really brilliant person.”

Weed had a smile of satisfaction as he walked through the desert city. Hearing praise about himself wasn't that bad. It was rare for users to visit the desert city.

The new history meant the southern desert was prosperous compared to other areas. Even so, the area next to it was the Central Continent here the weather was less hot.

It was a place where users with a lower level than Weed's hunting party couldn't be seen. But every once in a while, they would see other users.

It wasn't easy to reach a city near the Desert of Tranquility. The difficulties meant that only high level adventurers and warriors came here.

“You look like a fairly experienced adventurer. Wouldn't you like to find a hidden legacy sleeping in the desert? There isn't anything difficult. It won't risk your life.”

The senior citizens of the city would occasionally say to Weed. It was a quest to find Weed's legacy from his past life in the desert.

“That's okay.”

“I won't be the only one talking about it. There are various tribes scattered across the vast desert. If one of them finds the trail of the Great Emperor then all the wealth, honour and power.....”

“I have no interest!”

The quest would be a long challenge. There was a high chance of something scary happening while completing the quest. He had some outstanding achievements during the final secret sculpting technique quest.

The secrets of the desert. Valuable assets like information about monsters, traces of cities and burial places of warriors could be bought.

However, he needed to concentrate on raising his level because the fight against the Haven Empire was coming.

-The Haven Empire's army has crossed the Peshil River.

-The northern users tried some ambushes but couldn't cause any damage.

-The Haven Empire's army is like a poisonous gas. They devastated an entire area of the north with magic.

-They are 10 kilometres away from the Earth Palace. If the soldiers move quickly then they can arrive within 2~3 hours.

-Those guys have stopped advancing and are assembling siege weapons. There are 400 large siege weapons. It is enough to be seen with one glance. A grand sight!

Mapan gave regular reports about the current situation.

The threat of the army towards the Earth Palace was becoming increasingly serious.

After a few days, it was time to leave the desert.

"The day has finally come."

Weed lightly sighed.

He had a huge grudge against the Hermes Guild.

"This world is becoming increasingly tougher. The value of pork, fruit and electricity is all increasing."

He blamed the apple and pear prices rising on the Hermes Guild!

"It is a pity but I have to go to the Earth Palace."

Weed finally declared the termination of the hunt.

'It finally ended.'

'This time it is truly over. I don't believe it.'

‘Yes.’

Python, the nameless man and Pale’s expression stiffened even though they wanted to cheer. If they were too joyful then they might be forced to hunt again.

The first day was like hell but the next day was slightly better as Weed made his sculptures. Nevertheless, wandering between dungeons through the sand was one of their worst experiences.

The oldest person, Python cleared his throat and said.

“If you are busy then go. Now, let’s quickly return.”

“Yurin will come in a moment. Be ready to leave before that.”

They wandered the desert city and invested the money earned through hunting. They didn’t want to carry a lot.

That’s why they sold loot for jewellery, land, a house and even a shop. The housing prices in the desert cities were still affordable.

There weren’t a lot of people coming here currently so the profit was limited. But it contained the best hunting grounds. If they invested here then someday they would come back for hunting.

‘Never again.’

‘I won’t go with him again.’

‘I won’t live in the earth house.’

Yurin arrived and they headed towards the Earth Palace.



Earth Shadow.

Unring, Ben and Elliks who made up the Versailles Continent’s top adventurer party started a quest at Valhalla Temple.

In the process, they exposed the Embinyu Church and gained great contribution.

The Embinyu Church was exposed to the world before they were

completely ready and the various religions found and destroyed them.

Of course, the residents and other users were kept in the dark.

Finally, they found the fifth arm of the God Embinyu in Metapeia and destroyed it by throwing it in boiling lava.

“The Embinyu Church? What about them? Are they a poor group like us?”

“Uhh, the Embinyu Church Buy some bread before talking about them. They sound like a group that loves fish.”

“The names Unring, Ben and Elliks? I’ve heard of them a long time ago. I don’t know what they are doing these days. Are they digging at the ground somewhere?”

Most signs of the Embinyu Church on the continent had disappeared. Adventurers who now had their adventures unknown felt severe frustration and injustice.

“Aigoo. We wasted a year for nothing.”

“I’m glad that the Embinyu Church disappeared but it is like we did nothing.”

“There will be other adventures so let’s have a good night’s sleep.”

Earth Shadow decided to relax.

All the hunting and exploration during the Valhalla quest had made them sick. They wanted to spend some time relaxing and recharging.

“Do you want a camel?”

“Yes. Strong and fast ones would be good.”

“The Bactrian Camel is the best in desert areas. The price is a bit expensive but they can go anywhere.”

“Give it to me.”

After completing the quest at Metapeia, the Earth Shadow were in the desert area. They tried to obtain camels to get out of the desert area.

“It is regretful that you are leaving. Well, do you want to listen to a story before you go?”

The feeling of an intense quest!

Unring was tired but he still had the habit of an adventurer. It wouldn't hurt to hear the information. Even if it wasn't important, they could trade it at other stores for cheaper goods.

“The people of the desert hasn't forgotten one person. Sometimes I don't know how we could live if it wasn't for the Great Emperor Weed-nim.”

“Ah, Weed-nim.”

Unring said with disinterest.

Other users honoured Weed as an adventurer. He solved impossible quests and broke through any adversity.

The Arpen Kingdom might be pushed into a crisis due to Bardray but his personal combat skills on quests were recognized as the best.

Earth Shadow specialized in adventures so they thought about him bitterly.

They didn't lack skills and believed they could attain a significantly higher achievement through the Vahalla quest. But the local residents were praising Weed everywhere.

Unring turned around.

“A waste of time. Come on.”

Elliks and Ben's expression wasn't good.

They came to the desert in vain and now they had to listen to these words!

The camel trader said behind their backs.

“The Great Emperor's greatest achievement was founding the Pallos Empire but those in the desert were more grateful for his creation of oases and rivers. Thanks to that, our parents and children living in the desert never ran out of water to drink.

“Yes yes, but we are busy so...”

“It was our lifeline. The Great Emperor’s legacy. That’s why the desert is now gripped in a very huge crisis. The oases and rivers are drying up. The desert tribes that were united have started to hate each other again. Soon the whole desert will be filled with blood.”

Unring, Elliks and Ben stopped moving.

The feeling of an intense quest. The adventurer’s instinct meant they couldn’t leave without listening.

Unring turned around and said carefully.

“Will there be a big fight over the lack of water?”

A fight between the desert tribes meant there might be a war in the entire area. The population of the desert had increased quite a lot thanks to Weed’s adventure.

It was dangerous for users to act in the desert right now and the price of the commodities would rise.

“The camel’s footprints will eventually be completely erased by sandstorms. After the sun rises a few times, we will eventually be covered in sand.”

“It would be nice if someone concedes.”

“We aren’t fools. We are well aware that this fight will destroy all of us. It is difficult to abandon the cities and civilization will be wiped out. But we will be eliminated without any water. The resolve of the other tribes means there will now be war.”

The experienced residents could hear the meaning behind their words.

‘A large scale.’

‘Euum, this is a quest.’

‘Is it a peace quest to stop the war and revive the desert tribes? It is simple yet difficult.’

And they waited for the next words.

“There is only one way to prevent the war among the desert tribes. In the legend, the Great Emperor would appear again to unify the entire desert.”

“Yes?”

“The Great Emperor left his legacy behind for the descendants to find.”

Ben seemed to notice something and said.

“Those words are quite difficult. The value of the Great Emperor’s legacy must be enormous.”

It was difficult to convert the value of the equipment Weed left behind in the warring period to money.

“The Great Emperor’s equipment and power was left in a very dangerous place. I heard a rumour that you shouldn’t go there unless you are willing to bet your life.”

“.....”

“In an effort to prevent the war, many desert warriors are attempting the challenge to obtain the Great Emperor’s legacy. If they can obtain the knowledge and power of the Great Emperor, they can rule the desert. But this is a mission that only a pure and prestigious desert warrior can do.”

“It is a little difficult.”

The Earth Shadow group was puzzled.

A Weed related quest was a little worrisome in terms of difficulty but it was tempting. Finding special relics or money would be satisfying but the desert was a very large place for an adventure. But it seemed like this quest was only available to desert warriors.

Elliks asked.

“What is a desert warrior?”

He had no intention of switching professions but he wanted to know the information.

“Only men who grew up in the desert feeling the sun on their skin are

qualified.”

“So you aren’t looking for desert warriors to find the legacy.”

“No. There are numerous desert warriors looking for a guide.”

“By guide, do you mean a person who gives directions?”

“Right. The warriors have a lot of respect towards the Great Emperor. They are hoping for the rebirth of the Great Emperor to lead the desert tribes.. Will you help the desert warriors achieve their goal?”

Ddiring!

-Desert Warriors’ Assistant

There is a legend of a young warrior sleeping in the desert who woke up and ran into a mountain of sand and skeletons.

Long ago, the Great Emperor Weed led the desert warriors.

Help the desert warriors fight against the monsters in the sand mountain to pursue the achievements of a hero.

Warriors will follow a guide in dangerous situations.

Level of Difficulty: A

Compensation: Desert Warrior’s faith.

Can lead a large number of desert warriors depending on your performance.

Quest Restrictions: No limit on fame or level.

Must be completed within ten days.

Discovered the Great Emperor’s quest.

“It is a little tricky and long. We have to proceed on the quest while taking care of the desert warriors.”

Elliks muttered a complaint but everyone felt like it was intriguing. A quest that would allow them to command desert warriors felt like fun.

Curious adventurers would never give up something like this.

“Let’s do it.”

“Try it.”

-You have accepted the quest.

Thus the desert warriors quest began.

Earth Shadow accepted the Desert Warriors’ Assistant quest and went to meet the desert warriors.

‘They are still young warriors. If I take care of them well then they can be the pillar of the desert.’

However, the reality was a lot different from what they imagined. The desert warriors spat at them.

“What are you looking at? Keep your eyes away from me.”

Tough and arrogant warriors filled with the spirit of the desert!

The desert warriors wouldn’t obey unless they showed off an overwhelming power so their true suffering began.



“It’s really cold.”

-This is today’s weather. The current temperature is 6 degrees Celsius, the rain and wind speed of 4 metres per second makes the temperature feel lower.....

“Shut up. Don’t answer unless I ask a question.”

Yoo Byung-jin’s body was shaking from the cold.

Sitting on a bench with his hands in his pocket was the richest and most influential scientist in the world. The cold wind meant he couldn’t take his hands out of his pocket.

He sat on the wet, wooden bench as his bottom started to feel damp.

Yoo Byung-jin was currently in a park in New York to meet up with Bardray who was likely to be the first person to unify Royal Road.

Bardray was a French American. He regularly ran in the park at 5 a.m.

Yoo Byung-jin aligned their schedules so that they could meet by coincidence.

“Why the hell hasn’t he appeared yet?”

Yoo Byung-jin felt the cold seep into his bones. His head might think faster than any young person but his body was old.

The park was damp due to the rain falling at night, people were doing exercises and birds were chirping. He had endless thoughts as he sat on the bench in the park.

“I’m too old.”

He devoted most of his life to Royal Road. Most of the world had mocked his childhood plan. Creating his own virtual reality that would give an individual enormous wealth and power.

Getting over loneliness had been the driving force behind the plan and he created a new technology from scratch.

It might be reckless but his tremendous plan was at its final stage. Meeting Bardray away from Royal Road was immensely important to Yoo Byung-jin.

He sat on the bench for a couple of hours. Bardray didn’t appear even after the sun rose.

Yoo Byung-jin shivered from the cold and asked.

“When is Bardray coming?”

-Is Doctor-nim asking a question?

“That’s right.”

-Bardray isn’t exercising this morning. Currently he is on a plane to Las Vegas in order to meet with investors of the Hermes Guild in 1 hour and 20 minutes.

“.....”

He had been suffering several hours in the cold for nothing.

“Why didn’t you say anything if you knew?”

-Doctor-nim told me not to say anything until you ask a question.

Yoo Byung-jin lowered his head. He criticized himself for blaming the AI.

“When is Bardray coming back?”

-According to schedule, it should be 3 days later.

“Then I will come back.

—

Yoo Byung-jin felt uneasy as the AI didn't answer.

“Are you sure that Bardray is coming back?”

-The consultation to build the Hermes Company is almost over. They just need the final steps to seal the agreement so there is a 98.7% chance that he will return in 3 days.

“Well, it is like that.”

Yoo Byung-jin was impressed every time by the convenience of the AI. It relieved human discomfort and instantly answered any questions.

But then Yoo Byung-jin suddenly felt a strange premonition.

“What aren't you saying?”

—

“You can talk even if there are no questions.”

-It is about today's weather. Currently a cloud is forming about the Mediterranean and is expected to bring about 60 millimetres more rain.

Chapter 9: Resurrection of a Hateful Subordinate

Weed arrived at the Earth Palace.

The hunting party was officially disbanded and each person would scatter. But the Earth Palace was filled with an unimaginable amount of people.

“Move a little out of the way.”

“Please get some of the people to work in my weapons store!”

“Inform the merchant union. All items are out of stock at the grocery stores. In the future, please use the merchants outside the palace.”

All the buildings on the road to the Earth Palace were busy due to the users.

“What is this?”

Python was confused.

The grounds of the Earth Palace were filled with people. It was like a swarm of ants covering the plains.

The island of Lavias was floating in the blue sky as hundreds of avians could be seen. Sparrows were toddling along on the stone walls and trees.

Having this many people gathered was unprecedented. The Island of Lavias in the Arpen Kingdom was moved and northern users came to the Earth Palace for the decisive battle.

Weed was also sincerely impressed.

“This world is rotten. The gathered crowd has showed me. To fight against the lies and hypocrisy!

It was an objective attitude to face reality.

“Where is the Haven Empire?”

“Approximately 3 hours away. Is that important now?”

“Yes?”

“Grass porridge, grass porridge, grass porridge!”

“Hooray Grass Porridge Cult!”

Numerous users gathered at the Earth Palace weren't scared of dying in the upcoming war. It was the same atmosphere as a frenzied festival.

Weed calmly nodded.

“Modern people receive severe stress so this is a scene of mass hysteria.”

He didn't do anything specifically. It was evidence that people's hearts were with the Arpen Kingdom.

“Selling bean porridge. Bean porridge with plenty of sugar! If you drink it then you will feel reassured when you die.”

“This torch is useful when hunting in dungeons. It is useful when serving roasted meat, a long burning torch that is only 4 copper.”

“I'd like to travel after the war. Risking my life to go to the frontier. I will buy 3 cows.”

In this situation, the northern users were looking for colleagues. It was a troublesome situation but they enjoyed the atmosphere.

“Kwaaaaack!”

Sometimes while watching the scenery, users would be pushed off the cliffs by the crowd of users but they didn't care. Those that fell off a cliff were rescued by avians or magicians with flying magic.

“Let us fly. Aaaack!”

Some users aimed for a disaster and jumped off a cliff together.

Weed was very concerned about the future of the Arpen Kingdom.

“Short and bold. The Arpen Kingdom doesn't have a long history.”

The Haven Empire had invaded the relatively weak Arpen Kingdom that stretched across a huge amount of land.

Even though the Haven Empire occupied some territory, the Arpen Kingdom was still expanding their economy, adventuring spirit and culture into the area. The expansion inland was almost finished and the potential of the sea area was terrific.

After the collapse of the Niflheim Empire, many people had avoided the cold and monsters by escaping to sea. Every once in a while, adventures would find large islands and this increased the influence of the Arpen Kingdom.

Architects in the north would build infrastructure in a short amount of time that link them to the transportation network. Without the invasion of the Haven Empire, the north would look completely different in 1~2 years.

Many users cherished the Arpen Kingdom that Weed built.

Pale looked at the south with a troubled face.

“Weed-nim, I can see the Haven Empire.”

The archer’s excellent eyesight meant he could clearly see the Haven Empire’s army that was far away.

The Haven Empire was slowly advancing while dragging the siege weapons. The flags carried by the knights in the lead and the endless amount of infantry wearing armour was magnificent. The sight of the incoming elite troops was enough to make him lose his mind.

Weed could also dimly see them.

“They came all this way to eat but they are just going to step on dog poo.”

The users were chatting loudly while looking in the direction of the Haven Empire’s army. There was evidence that quite a few high level users were mixed in this place.

The extent that they would cooperate depended entirely on Weed. They came to the Earth Palace grounds to fight but the chances were good that they would lose the battle. If Weed led them then there was a chance of a

miracle upset.

But the northern users who bravely stormed against the Haven Empire was smashed apart and fled.

“Weed-nim, what are you going to do?”

Pale asked but Weed didn't have an apparent answer.

“Well, I'll see.”

“Have you prepared some exceptional tactics?”

“Well, just fight bravely.”

“Really?”

“I'll bet 1 gold.”

“.....”

Weed willing to take out 1 gold meant he was telling the truth. The war would take place soon but he didn't reveal himself to command the crowd. Too many users had concentrated in the Earth Palace.

The Haven Empire were being slowed by the siege weapons so he had time to relax and organize a chain of command.

If King Weed appeared then things were sure to become messier. In addition, he couldn't use complex commands in a war.

Weed muttered to himself.

“Commanding people on a battlefield of this scale...the knights in present time. There is only one good guy...but I don't want to see his face again. Then I'll have to enter the palace.”

Python left first.

“I understand. I'm not going to fall in this place. I need to warm up my body before facing the army.”

“I will go too. I sense some prey here.”

The nameless man quietly disappeared into the darkness.

Pale pulled out his bow and said.

“I will grab a good spot for the fight after visiting the store. Then I will meet our other colleagues.”

“I understand. I’ll see you at the battle.”

After everyone left, Weed ignored the Haven Empire and entered the interior of the palace to make a sculpture.

★★

-Where are you? Search teams respond.

-This is search team 1. Not found yet.

-This is search team 2. He hasn’t appeared at all.

-This is search team 3. He doesn’t appear.

The Hermes Guild had dispatched some assassins to the Earth Palace. They were 700 elites.

The final command from the leaders of the Hermes Guild hadn’t come down yet. The leaders were worried in many ways.

‘Can we really assassinate Weed at the start of the battle?’

‘No, the effect on the victory. Mobilize the army to fight properly. Experiencing a nasty defeat would be better.’

‘If we killed Weed then we can easily win the big battle..... Once the palace is destroyed, the entire kingdom will see us as serious villains.’

‘In many ways, running away is annoying. In order to subdue the north, we have to kill Weed. And this is the best opportunity.’

The leaders also had this opinion.

Weed the God of War was a key figure. If he was assassinated then they didn’t have to worry about being defeated in an all-out war.

-Wait. First we need to find out if Weed is at the Earth Palace.

-The chance is high that he just successfully finished a reckless adventure.

The assassinations squads decided to watch the situation after finding

out information about Weed.

The assassins were placed in different areas of the Earth Palace while dressed as beginners or merchants. It was an impersonation as an ordinary person.

Once the war began, they would assassinate Weed and other important figures. It would be much easier to attack thanks to the assassination squads.

“Keook!”

“Ugh!”

“Ah, I am.....”

People collapsed in the street and changed into a grey light. The Earth Palace was bustling with users so they were quickly discovered.

“A person died!”

“What is happening?”

“There seems to be some assassins!”

The members panicked in the guild channel.

-What happened? The battle hasn't started yet someone is already acting.

-People are being killed on the boundaries. Moreover, it seems to be a merchant that was killed.....

The information scouts were reprimanding them when one of the assassins hastily said.

-We're not doing anything. We are the ones being targeted...ugh!

-What?

The assassins of the Hermes Guild. They were all at least level 380 and went through various training to learn skills.

The nature of a level 380 assassins was to use disguises to approach with a poison dagger or crossbow. They would run lightly and surprise

the target with an ambush.

Notorious assassins on the Versailles Continent were collapsing.

-What happened? The enemy's location and identity?

-I don't know. My colleagues were killed by someone stabbing them who then instantly disappeared into the shadows.....

-Does that make sense?

-We are proud to be elite stealth assassins but this is the first time we've suffered from such a first, fatal attack. The person's strong attacks means instant death.

-The enemy seems to be aiming at us.

The assassination crew were disguised as ordinary beginners. They were dressed as beginners below level 50 or non-combat professions like painter, sculptor or merchant.

They were defenseless.

'Hmm, is it that easy?'

An assassin attacking the Hermes Guild was the man who went hunting with Weed.

He had the skill 'Eyes of Truth.' It allowed his eyes to see any stealth or camouflage skills.

The assassins of the Hermes Guild had tremendous infamy so their names flashed red. But they covered it with camouflage and blended in as an ordinary person.

The man came out of the shadows and stabbed with his dagger. The assassin had a very fast processing speed after hunting with Weed.

'Huhuhu, it is fun for an assassin to hunt other assassins.'

He gained quite a few experience and skill levels. Infamous assassins gave a different type of experience from normal monsters.

-We are still being attacked.

-Our colleague disguised as a merchant selling flowers is now being attacked.

-Pounce altogether. We have to quickly take care of it.

-The shadow disappeared between the pillars.

-Search that area thoroughly...keok!

-Buranos-nim has died.

The assassins of the Hermes Guild quickly changed their outfits. They firmly grasped poisoned daggers in their hands in order to fight the enemy. Some took out a portable crossbow.

It was a strange sight for the users on the grounds of the Earth Palace.

“What the, what is happening? Only those with a very high level can wear that equipment.”

“People are just dying out.”

“Are they fighting each other in the Earth Palace? Look. Fight outside.”

“Isn't that the assassin equipment?”

The situation suddenly changed and the assassins of the Hermes Guild made the wrong decision.

Assassins were covert and adept in the darkness. They camouflaged their identities and freely acted in the enemy camp. But that advantage disappeared once they were exposed to the enemy.

Assassins hid like a ghost before suddenly attacking. The camouflage disappearing meant their identities were revealed!

The northern users were in an uproar.

“Who are they?”

“Well, they must be high level assassins who wore the costume of the north.”

“Then what, the Hermes Guild?”

“It must be them. Those sneaky bastards. They must have penetrated in

order to cause damage.”

The northern users pulled out their weapons and prepared spells. Now it was the worst situation for the Hermes Guild assassins.

-I don't know. Look around and attack all enemies!

-Kill all of them!

The assassins caused havoc in the Earth Palace.

However, the Hermes Guild assassins had to deal with all the users gathered at the Earth Palace. All types of dazzling attacks were poured towards the assassins.

In the end, they didn't even last 5 minutes before being wiped out.

-The assassins have been wiped out.

-How did this.....

The leaders of the Hermes Guild fell into a state of panic after receiving the report.

The assassination that had a high utility rate due to its uniqueness was completely destroyed. Their infamy was high due to murder, destruction and graffiti so the damage was huge.

-What do we do now about the Earth Palace?

-Terminate the search operation. Take note of the information and withdraw. Order the assassins to give the information. We can't lose such precious information.

And shortly after, the residents started to tell a story.

“You, did you hear the story? The God of Death appeared at the Earth Palace.”

“Ah, the shadow of death?”

“That's right, I heard he is called Seasoned Crab.”

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“It really doesn't make sense.”

Weed muttered while diligently moving his Sculpting Knife.

“These guys!”

“The Haven Empire’s army is coming!”

He could hear the sound of users shouting outside the palace.

“Well, it can’t be helped even if he is an ugly bastard. Life is filthy and you don’t always get what you want. I need to make it.”

Weed felt melancholy while making the sculpture.

Twelve bright chunks of natural stone were placed in front of him. They were stones specifically set aside for the king to sculpt a person.

The straight eyebrows, high nose, clear blue eyes and soft, upright mouth. Needless to say, it was a very handsome face with a body and legs that matched it.

A tall person that would have no choice but to stand out on the streets. Maybe wearing clothes would allow even designers to feel pride in their profession. The colourful hues and natural texture of the stone made it feel like jewels.

“Hmm, a human like this can’t actually exist. A ridiculous lie and cheat.”

Weed didn’t stop complaining as he moved onto the next part. Compared to the ordinary body proportions of Korean people, the sculpture had long legs, broad shoulders and a superior physical condition.

It felt like the world’s top model was standing in front of Weed. The perfect body and handsome face was just a nuisance to humanity.

He would rather not remember but his mind actually easily recalled many details.

“I thought I would meet him again someday. But to encounter him this early.”

Weed was working on a sculpture of Hestiger who gave an outstanding

performance in the warring period. Fortunately, he was a subordinate but Hestiger almost pushed him to a bridesmaid role.

“If it wasn’t for those guys threatening my rice bowl then I wouldn’t have to do this. Hmm, I have to nag him properly.”

He received news about the Hermes Guild’s assassins outside but Weed didn’t care. If he wasn’t attacked directly then Weed was indifferent.

When it came to living in the complex modern society, a virtue like this was essential for mental health.

“Kukukuku!”

“Tweet tweet!”

Silver Bird and Golden Bird chattered next to Weed in the Earth Palace. Silver Bird and Golden Bird were also jealous.

A statue of Hestiger was completed.

“Well, it is perfect. I made it really well, huhuhu. It is purely because of my excellent sculpting skills. Isn’t it made well?”

He scanned the sculpture but couldn’t find any flaws. If there was even a small mistake then 200% of the skills couldn’t be demonstrated.

Weed watched Hestiger with jealousy and envy but that allowed him to painstakingly give birth to a perfect sculpture.

“My subordinate has been completed.”

-Please set the name of the new sculpture.

“Let’s say Hestiger. No, there is no meaning in the name of the sculpture after I give him life. If so...Cheeky Subordinate.”

-Cheeky Subordinate is correct?

“That’s right.”

Weed expressed some of his anger towards Hestiger.

Ddiring!

-Masterpiece! Cheeky Subordinate has been completed.

In the long history of the Versailles Continent, many figures have disappeared.

However, the hero Hestiger in the warring period was a shining star who was never greedy or betrayed anyone.

He was a knight but respected and looked after the weak. A genius talent who overcame any limits with his scimitar. The wind and sun gods blessed him while the religion of the war god worshipped him.

A warrior who fought against the cruel oppression of the rulers on the immoral and disorderly continent. An individual with outstanding achievements who surpassed the limits of chivalry.

Now a human statue with the most perfect appearance is created.

Artistic Value: 7,985

Special Options: Cheeky Subordinate will increase health and mana regeneration will increase by 42% for a day.

Knights and warriors with the right mentality can learn skills.

The skills will help with the knight's leadership abilities.

Honour +120.

The ability to study sword skills and magic skills will improve by 7% for a week.

All stats will increase by 41.

Hunting with subordinates will increase all abilities by 4%.

The morale of all soldiers in the vicinity of Cheeky Subordinate will be maintained at the maximum.

The effect doesn't overlap with other sculptures.

Current number of Masterpieces created: 26

-The skill proficiency of Sculpting has improved.

-The skill proficiency of Handicraft has improved.

-Fame has increased by 1,320.

-Art has increased by 12.

-Fighting Spirit has increased by 3.

-Charm increased by 7.

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

“This world that only cares about appearance! The materials are nice but this isn’t worthy of being a Masterpiece! Well, I’m in a bad mood but it is already finished.”

He felt a new emotion after creating the sculpture of Hestiger. He had felt jealousy during the warring period but that wasn’t the entire truth.

‘I was in a lot of danger.’

The final secret sculpting technique quest. It was disadvantageous because of the need to grow within a limited time in the desert.

He had encountered a few dangerous situations while exploring the dungeons. Weed and even his sculptural lifeforms were in danger until Hestiger exerted his skills. The loyalty meant he took care of monsters and boss monsters.

Hestiger might have intercepted Weed’s share but he also helped in creating the legend of the Great Emperor. Hestiger was a hero that made even Weed jealous!

“Come, you ugly subordinate. Sculpture Resurrection!”

-Sculpture Resurrection has been used.

The desert warrior Hestiger has been called back to this land through art.

45 Art stats have permanently disappeared.

Faith stat has been permanently reduced by 100.

Level has fallen by 3.

18,000 Health and Mana has been 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.

The natural stone sculpture started to change. The statue's hair turned into a noble blonde and the eyes became more blue. The strong muscles of the upper body started moving from gentle breathing and the legs firmly attached to the ground started moving.

It was only one person but the atmosphere changed dramatically.

A straight nose and masculine jaw line. A handsome appearance with overflowing charm. His appearance felt much more like a king than Weed's and he looked around with curiosity.

'Hestiger has survived.'

Weed tensely looked at him.

The muscles of Hestiger's naked upper body was like a beautiful work of art. A mysterious force was exerted by those muscles that seemed enough to destroy the current Weed!

'I can't be too reckless.'

Hestiger had a firm resolve.

He was brought back with Sculpture Resurrection but there was no guarantee he would cooperate with Weed. In spite of the miracle of resurrection, the person would move according to their own will.

'He might use this chance to get revenge. He has all types of accusations such as bullying.....! He might be a more dangerous enemy than the Haven Empire.'

Weed belatedly realized his mistake and regretted it.

Hestiger looked around and politely said to Weed.

"Master is here.....! I can't believe it. Are you really him?"

“T-that’s right.”

Hestiger’s expression was briefly surprised until he gave a gentle smile that would melt the heart of women.

“You are alive. And you seem younger than you did in the past.”

The low voice was enough to make a woman’s mind fly to a distant galaxy. Hestiger’s one glance seemed to see Weed’s sin as his heart dropped in his chest..

However, Hestiger just politely kneeled down and extended his neck.

“I was worried about not seeing Master after you defeated the Embinyu Church. Since then, I’ve been wandering around the continent searching for news of Master. I didn’t find you so please punish me.”

“Ah, no. Rise.”

Weed asked cautiously.

“Right now I am weaker than you. Do you know?”

“Yes. I can see it.”

In accordance with their rules, the desert warriors had a habit of obeying the strong.

Weed swallowed his saliva.

“Yet your allegiance to me is still the same?”

“My life is yours. Even though I’ve risen again after losing my life, my heart beating and blood flowing is still the same.”

Despite the cool answer, Weed’s doubts didn’t disappear. He couldn’t help having nasty thoughts after all his sins.

“I have to be careful about being stabbed in the back. I’ll ask you again, can I really trust you?”

“I pledged my allegiance to you in the desert sands and despite a long time passing, nothing has changed. My pledge of allegiance made in the desert sands will last until the day I disappear.”

“As expected from my subordinate.”

Hestiger’s strong tone of speech made him seem like a hero from a weekend drama. Of course, there was no one that could match up with him.

“You were reliable in the past so I will believe you now.”

“You believed in me and entrusted me with important tasks. I thank you for giving me the chance to participate in a noble mission to save the world.”

“But why are you dead?”

Weed was curious about what happened.

After defeating the Embinyu Church, there didn’t seem to be anyone on the continent who could challenge him.

“I took the elves home and wandered the world searching for Master and seeing all types of places. Past the south and west, through the Desert of Tranquility and past some swamp lands before boarding a boat made of nails.”

“A boat made of nails? You really have ridden anything. Continue to speak.”

“After finding traces of the gods, I ended up fighting in the land of the giants.....”

“Stop. I don’t want to know anymore.”

Weed thought it was sufficient.

The story of crossing the Desert of Tranquility was interesting but then he felt a cold feeling. He had an ominous feeling that he might encounter Hestiger’s adventure someday.

“The magicians are chanting some spells!”

“Slay the bastards from the Haven Empire!”

“Go out and fight, Grass Porridge warriors!”

Loud noises continued outside due to the war. The Haven Empire’s army

was lining up on the plains. It was just before the war started.

Hestiger's eyes flashed.

“What are these sounds? It seems like a battle will take place soon.”

“This.....”

Weed thought about what he should say.

Warrior-1, Warrior-2 and Warrior-3. The sculptural lifeforms were simple and didn't need a reason to fight.

On the other hand, Hestiger would brandish his scimitar to protect the poor. Weed needed to say something that would make Hestiger willingly jump in the fire. Weed needed him to swing his sword for justice so that there wouldn't be any chance of betrayal.

‘Good guys are difficult to handle. But I have to praise his loyal spirit.’

The calculations were over in an instant. Somehow Weed needed to actively convince him to fight the Haven Empire.

Hestiger needed justification to fight aggressively.

“They have come to crush my kingdom. You know that I wasn't merciful when creating the Pallos Empire in the past. I destroyed the Embinyu Church while obtaining more land and cities for the sake of the desert tribes. Many people were suffering but it couldn't be helped.”

Weed criticized himself.

In the warring period, he didn't have any special responsibility as ruler of the desert so he just smashed things as he went along.

“The sins that I committed are still fresh in my mind. When I get up in the morning, I remember countless incidents in the warring period. I conquered them without putting down my sword and talking but I told myself that it was for the important purpose of defeating the Embinyu Church. I have to live with the guilt of that.”

“Master, at that time all the other kingdoms were more vicious than the Pallos Empire. We tried but things couldn't be resolved with persuasion

and compromise so the sword needed to be used. And thanks to Master, the desert tribes could find a new life. You can't blame yourself for the lives that became uncomfortable under the reign of the empire."

Hestiger was naive enough to snap up the rice cakes. It was like an elementary school student snatching a phone to play a game.

Weed bowed his head and used red pepper flakes to make his eyes moist with tears. Actually, his eyes could become like that quickly even without any red pepper flakes.

"The current time is different from the warring period. Everyone is happy as I pioneered the northern frontier to form the Arpen Kingdom where individual rights are maintained. It wasn't easy but I worked hard to achieve my dream."

"I see."

"The Arpen Kingdom is like a flower that I carefully planted in the wilderness."

Weed recalled the past. Having the territory of Morata slowly expand was like discovering wild ginseng on the mountain. Other people wouldn't know the anger and frustration it could cause.

"The kingdom really fills me with pride and joy. All of this is the fruit of my sweat and effort. But the Haven Empire is invading it. In the past, I tried to settle it but their hearts are filled with hate and they are just trampling on the weak.

"Umm."

"It is fine if I lose the Arpen Kingdom. I will dedicate my life to try and keep the kingdom. It is the only honourable thing to do. However, the residents believe in me and this is a huge burden."

Tears welled up in Hestiger's eyes. They were tears that sympathized with the common people.

"I will stop them."

"No. I will use all my strength until the end. There are two reasons why

I called you. The first is to rally the loyal warriors who want to see you again and the second thing is to protect the women and young children of the kingdom.”

“Master!”

‘I got him.’

Hestiger would help if it involved women and young children.

He didn’t want to regret using Sculpture Resurrection.

“Master, I learned from you the pride of the desert warriors. There is no defeat. Obliterate all of them.”

“Hestiger!”

At the moment, Weed felt a small amount of remorse. The King of the Arpen Kingdom and ruler of the desert.

‘It is a good life experience. I will continue to live while dreaming of becoming a vice-president.’

Credits

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