

The Legendary Moonlight Sculptor

(달빛 조각사)

Volume 42

Nam-Hi-Sung

(남희성)

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: [No Title]

Weed stood in front of the collapsed Earth Palace.

The mountains and Royal Palace of the Arpen Kingdom had turned into a colossal pile of rubble.

A few days ago, the magnificent palace had been built on the peaks in the form of a crown but it was impossible to see that past appearance now.

“Only our honour was wounded...no, we are exhausted but the invaders have been defeated.”

Weed gave a deep sigh.

“Indeed, a person really can't relax in life.”

Even so, at least he managed to stop the Haven Empire from conquering the north.

A new myth had been created.

“Weed the God of War!”

“The Arpen Kingdom will flourish for generations to come.”

“Hooray Grass Porridge Cult!”

The uphill battle had ended so the northern users raised their weapons and cheered.

Weed turned nicely with his cloak waving behind him towards the people. He stood on a pile of rubble and could see the users that completely filled the plains.

They were users of the Arpen Kingdom. The war had ended but more people continued to gather. But despite this strong sight, it was natural to think they would lose to the Haven Empire.

Among the crowd of onlookers, there were quite a few who had just recently come to participate in the war.

The Hermes Guild users and Haven Empire troops would give a lot of

fame, contribution and loot.

The brave warriors of the north.

The guardian knights of justice.

The hunters of wickedness.

2nd class mercenaries.

A number of useful titles could be obtained from the battle.

The elementalists and magicians also had the chance to summon spirits or experience rare magic.

Weed chose not to discriminate against the users who joined the war late. Such thinking was unsuitable as the King of the Arpen Kingdom.

‘Anyway, they will all pay taxes later.’

A lot of taxes!

“I will just say one word.”

“Weed-nim, please declare victory!”

“Hooray His Majesty!”

The users shouted towards Weed. They wanted Weed to make a clear declaration of victory.

The chests of the northern users were still hot despite the battle being over. The sun was about to set but they were burning from overcoming a difficult battle.

It wouldn't be difficult for Weed to ask for a little bit of money from their pocket.

“I'm glad that many people are happy. I can share the great joy of victory with you.”

Hestiger who had the best achievements in the fight came to Weed's side.

A piece that had been revived with Sculptural Resurrection and a target of Weed's jealousy in the warring period.

In this battle alone, he had swept away the armed forces of the Haven Empire and some of the best users in the Hermes Guild. The palace collapsing had dealt with the 1st commander Draka and 3rd commander Porcal but Hestiger had killed the 6th commander Drom by himself.

‘It was because of me. I just had to lift the rice spatula.’

Weed had tried to kill the 2nd commander Balbaro but the high level northern users had come out of nowhere and deprived him of it.

Many high level users in the north had a popular name. The leaders of several large and small guilds in the Central Continent had moved to the north.

There were also players with a bad reputation. They quietly lived in the north until swarming like vultures once the Haven Empire were at a disadvantage.

As a result, Weed failed in hunting a commander.

Even so, the knights of the Haven Empire and the Hermes Guild still jumped at Weed despite the disadvantage. Hestiger and the sculptural lifeforms assisted in killing them as they rushed.

A typical quantity over quality!

Weed gained 3 levels and reached 422 in the war. His strength, agility, honour, charisma and dignity also increased substantially.

-As King of the Arpen Kingdom, you have led them to victory.

The feat of defeating the continent’s biggest enemy in a battle has been achieved.

By exterminating the invaders from the Haven Empire that unified the Central Continent, your dignity as a king has greatly increased.

He looked at the handsome Hestiger and felt regret. He could feel the jealousy and hatred towards Hestiger again.

Even when he was just standing still holding the scimitar, he looked like a cool piece of art. An attractive charm that would cause the females to pounce like moths.

‘How much time is left with Sculpture Resurrection? He will continue to be like a live painting until then.’

A situation where he wanted to spit!

Weed thought highly of himself. He was the king of the Arpen Kingdom.

‘I raised my subordinates well. Hestiger is outstanding. It is thanks to meeting such a good master.’

The conclusion was self-pride!

“Yes, let’s share in the victory together.”

Weed turned his head towards the crowd.

He attracted the attention of many eyes. Of course, it would be broadcasted through the stations. Millions of people were currently watching Weed through the television.

In addition, the users of the Arpen Kingdom gathered here would remember this day for a long time. It was important to consider the ruling of the kingdom after a war was won.

‘I need to give a great speech.’

The battle had ended but he hadn’t prepared any words.

” I remember a speech from a politician on television...no, I would be fed up listening to that. Then...’

Weed used Lion’s Roar towards the people.

“Don’t rejoice over the victory!”

“Uhh?”

The reaction of the crowd was like ice cold water had been poured on them.

“What is he saying?”

“Aren’t his words wrong?”

“A little odd?”

The crowd felt strange after Weed used Lion's Roar. Then a louder Lion's Roar followed.

“Winning was an inevitable result!”

“Wahhhh!”

The simple words caused an uproar among the crowd.

It had felt hopeless so they were desperately glad to defeat the Haven Empire.

The Arpen Kingdom was their home and the users could continue to freely live in it.

Despite the Arpen Kingdom not forcing loyalty from the users, they valued the loyalty and happiness. This was the ultimate reason for their defeat of the Hermes Guild's invasion.

From Weed's perspective, the users didn't blindly follow the Hermes Guild.

‘Squeeze the crowd. Even a dictator would collapse from a successful revolt. A good politician knows how to take care of the people. I need to slowly raise their devotion like boiling water.’

An excellent long term dictator knew how to handle the balance between oppression and liberation. Weed had the patience to be a dictator.

Weed yelled again with Lion's Roar.

“Now the war is over but the Hermes Guild's endless greed means that they won't give up. The real fight starts from now on.”

The users that had been cheering became silent. Tension filled their eyes.

Everyone knew the power of the Haven Empire. The strongest force on the Versailles Continent.

The northern users had fought bravely but they didn't want to surrender.

Weed continued to use Lion's Roar.

"The Arpen Kingdom is weak! We might not be able to stop them in the next invasion."

"....."

At this crucial moment, Weed's lips were smeared with spit. A brazen face was required.

"But even then we will win. It is because we are not alone, we are together!"

"Ohhhh!"

Goosebumps started to form on their skin!

This was a great effect when talking to a large crowd.

Shortly after the dramatic victory, emotions were heightened and the atmosphere was wonderful.

"The Arpen Kingdom might be weak as a new kingdom but we can do it if we combine our power. Farmers plant the seeds. They raise grain to feed people. Knight hunt and guard the cities from monsters while adventurers risk their lives travelling to distant places. They have discovered unknown things that will benefit us. Painters, architects, merchants, sculptors, blacksmiths and tailors, all these jobs are important. If everyone enjoys their roles then the Arpen Kingdom's freedom will never be invaded again!"

Weed enthusiastically finished the speech.

A speech that he didn't learn in high school. All the citizens would work hard for the kingdom and would pay taxes.

"Hooray the Arpen Kingdom!"

"Weed-nim, we will keep the Arpen Kingdom forward!"

The reaction of the crowd couldn't be repressed. The blazing hot air had already embraced the next person so it was a festive atmosphere.

Today the enemies had crumbled with the Earth Palace so they had

expectations for the Arpen Kingdom's prosperity. It might be scary and tough but they would work hard.

Those gathered here were thrilled.

“We have won! Victory!”

“Haven Empire, no matter how many of them come. We are the free Arpen Kingdom!”

“Huhuhu, I am one of the Toadstool Porridge members that have survived until the end. Now I can enjoy it heartily. And I can fall asleep eating a bowl of grass porridge.”

“Kuhahaha! Today I will drink and play heartily. I'll shoot 20 wild boars!”

“The Walnut Porridge members gathered here. Play all night. Don't let even one miss it.”

“All 404 members of the Bean Porridge unit will have a meeting to commemorate the victory. Come nicely dressed in front of the large pine trees in the east!”

Cheers of joy rang out through the plains.

And after a while, the news that the Haven Empire's Imperial Palace had fallen reached them.

At first, they thought it was a ridiculous lie. But the rumour spread through whispers or guild internal chats.

The live broadcast from the stations showed the Haven Empire's Imperial Palace collapsing so the truth was discovered.

The place where the Imperial Palace used to be was only filled with rubble and treasures.

It was a shock that the Imperial Palace of the Haven Empire that signified the honor and dignity of the rulers of the Central Continent had collapsed.

The northern users were invigorated by the sight of the Hermes Guild

users and soldiers of the Haven Empire emerging from the rubble.

“What the, did that happen while we were fighting?”

“Those guys got attacked!”

“No, it is different. We deliberately knocked it down. But the Hermes Guild are just fools.”

It wasn't planned in advance but the atmosphere was good. Thus Weed used the loudest Lion's Roar.

“This time I will raise the taxes to 60%!”

His dream of raising the taxes!

The users of the Arpen Kingdom laughed loudly.

“Hehehe.”

“Kilkil, that joke was said with really good timing.”

“I really can't keep up with Weed-nim's jokes.”

“Weed the God of War, hooray!”

“Please lower the taxes to commemorate the victory. Free for everyone!”

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

“Kkuung.”

Geomchi-3 collapsed weakly to the ground.

-Vitality has been completely consumed.

You are hungry.

The body's immunity is low.

There are serious injuries all over your body.

Health is rapidly decreasing so if you don't receiving treatment then you will lose your life.

“Kukuku, the worst. Life itself is a miracle.”

Geomchi-3 had violently assaulted the Haven Empire with the instructors and students.

They needed to catch all enemies! He clearly recalled defeating 3~4 knight divisions during the battle.

Howling knights on horses. The instructors and students were invigorated as they broke through the knights.

Everyone relied on their own strength and determination. And the exhilarating thrill of combat.

-Take care of yourself and enjoy!

Geomchi commanded.

They needed to use their own strength to survive on the battlefield. There were no tactics and they just experienced the joy on their own.

This was true happiness compared to having a stable job, investments, retirement, etc. Whether it was 1 second or 1 minute, Geomchi-3 could enjoy life. Stress disappeared and his brain turned white from pleasure.

“This war experience is enough to make a man cry.”

Geomchi-3 fought against the enemy soldiers and knights.

The Haven Empire's army weren't shaken. They were like a solid wall as their ranged attacks wrecked indiscriminate havoc.

Geomchi-5 and Geomchi-7 made their last stand surrounded by knights while Geomchi-4 perished under the magic attacks. Even the Geomchis couldn't escape death when surrounded by enemies.

Occasionally the avians would show up in order to help Geomchi-3 survive a containment.

Geomchi-3 continued to fight for the Arpen Kingdom.

“From now on, we will take over. Please rest a little bit.”

Northern users came up to him and said.

Geomchi-3 just passed them and said.

“This is my playground. My play hasn't ended yet!”

Sometimes priests of the Arpen Kingdom would come up to treat him.

‘I don’t know. It is becoming harder to survive. But I can’t regret the way I lived my life. I can’t abandon my way of living.’

Geomchi-3 fought viciously.

He forgot himself while battling. In his disadvantaged childhood, he could only push aside his anxiety for the future when fighting.

‘I have nothing. Just fighting. Live life strongly by beating others in fights. That’s it.’

His whole body filled with joy!

Like a child, he enjoyed it like a game.

It didn’t matter how much his physical condition worsened. He jumped at any Hermes Guild users that neared.

Geomchi-3 survived each clash with his sword skills as well as luck. In the meantime, other students and even Geomchi-2 died in a similar manner.

And like a miracle, Geomchi-3 managed to survive until the end of the battle.

-You have achieved your obligations in the war as a martial artist.

All skills related to combat will increase.

The limitations of the flesh have been overcome.

Maximum health has increased by 3,405.

For the next month, resilience will increase by 350.

Fighting spirit, charisma and concentration will reach its maximum value for the next two months.

All stats will increase by 6.

Title ‘Superman of the Battlefield’ has been acquired.

A title only given to the strong warriors that are honourable and undaunted.

“Huhuhu.”

Geomchi-3 was satisfied.

Victory in battle and he gained the title of Superman of the Battlefield!
His body had been abused but he felt proud.

“My life wasn’t in vain.”

At that moment, light came from Geomchi-3’s body.

Ddirring!

-Batalli has watched your body and is impressed.

You have been appointed as the ‘Destroyer of Struggle.’

Batalli strength in battle is only limited to 5 people on the continent who were selected to receive the profession.

Regardless of your current profession, you will be able to learn any of Batalli’s divine skills.

The effect of divine combat skills will double.

Divine magic ‘Fresh Recovery,’ ‘Complete Weapon’ and ‘Formidable Fist’ has been engraved.

All stats have increased by 45 after being appointed as the Destroyer of Struggle.

The Faith stat has been generated.

120 faith has been given.

If you lose your life seven times, have faith completely disappear or refuse religious quests twice in a row then the appointment will be cancelled.

“Kukukuku.”

Geomchi-3 felt himself becoming stronger.

“I can fight better next time. Without missing any of the strong people.”

-Health will recover by 45 every second.

The injuries are slowly healing.

The divine magic granted healed his body.

Even if he wasn't saved by the priests of the Arpen Kingdom, he could move by himself.

Geomchi-3 saw the female priests busily running around. He couldn't help thinking their white uniforms were pretty.

Geomchi, Geomchi-2 and Geomchi-5. They were the only ones with girlfriends and were the subject of much envy.

Royal Road was a paradise for romance.

Geomchi-3 strongly clenched his fist.

"I don't need it. I will live a man's life until the end. Huhuhuhuk! Aigoo, so sad."



"Weed-nim! I wanted to see you."

After the battle, Weed met up with Pale, Surka, Irene, Hwaryeong, Romuna and their other colleagues. Surka was the first one to run and welcome him.

The survival rate of the northern users in this war wasn't very high.

Despite the hardships and adversity, Weed and his colleagues were somehow able to survive.

Bellot laughed brightly.

"I saw your sculpting quest. Your persistence and tenacity until it was a success...really cool."

"Thank you. I'm glad that everyone is alive."

"That's right. I really didn't know if I would die or not."

Except for Surka and Zephyr, the others weren't close combat professions so they fought with the sculptural lifeforms.

After the Earth Palace collapsed, they attacked the confused Haven Empire troops. Of course, this took quite a while but it finally ended.

“Weed-nim, we made progress in the quest.”

Weed heard the news from Zephyr that they had found quite a few relics of the Pallos Empire.

“If you fight against the cursed ghosts then you can receive associated divine items and quests. If the right successor is found then the weapon can be used.”

“The level of the equipment?”

“Most of them are around level 300. Some are around level 400. But unfortunately, there wasn't any really expensive or valuable things.”

“Um.”

Weed thought for a moment.

Most of the equipment of the desert warriors had been scattered somewhere. A lot of time had passed and the descendants had likely scattered them across the continent.

When looking at the bulletin boards, sometimes weapons and special items of the desert warriors were found. As history changed, new dungeons and ruins were excavated.

But Weed know the approximate amount of treasures.

The warring period. There were numerous relics, treasures, equipment and magic research equipment.

That list alone was enough to fill several palaces. While sweeping through the continent, they had looted treasures from many royal families and nobles.

The gold, jewellery and silver was enough to build thousands of Grand Buildings.

‘The remnants of the Pallos Empire are all buried in one place. Those fellows have hidden it.’

Some equipment might be lost while bring it to the north.

Weed left a long command but he couldn't help the habits of the desert

warriors.

Absolute obedience! The fate of the desert tribes was to obey the Great Emperor.

But it was a different story after he was gone.

The desert tribes struggled so they considered taking some of the treasures of the Pallos Empire.

Weed's influence meant his subordinates came to the north to bury the treasure but it wasn't difficult to guess that there would be some funds lacking.

'The picture is drawn roughly. And the rest of the treasure will come from somewhere.'

The equipment Weed used was likely to be encountered in the Find Traces of the Great Emperor quest.

"And there is a minor issue."

"What is it?"

"Ghosts continued to emerge while excavating the artifacts until we couldn't endure it anymore. Those completely purified were moved to a different place but it is really a heaven for ghosts."

"It is kind of like a hunting ground. Ghosts need to be fought to obtain the treasure."

"Something like that."

There were too many ghosts stuck to the treasures of the Pallos Empire to deal with alone.

'Ghosts would appear even if the treasures aren't excavated. All across the continent. The artifacts will emerge even among the desert tribes. It is probably associated with the Find Traces of the Great Emperor quest.'

Weed's gaze turned towards Hwaryeong. She was also staring at Weed.

As always, she was wearing a short skirt with colourful and pretty jewellery hanging from her ears and neck. The sparkling beauty would

always go well with a woman like her.

“Well, I mean.....”

Weed couldn't easily broach the subject.

After the recent situation with Seo-yoon, he had no choice but to feel awkward with Hwaryeong.

His other colleagues were silent on the matter. They couldn't interfere in the relationship between a man and a woman.

Weed politely spoke first.

“Have you been well in the meantime?”

“Yes.”

“You weren't sick.....”

Hwaryeong said spiritlessly.

“None.”

Pale felt like screaming.

This awkward and stiff atmosphere!

The women were watching with interest but the men felt like leaving.

Then Hwaryeong smiled brightly.

“It is okay. And thank you.”

“Huh?”

“A singer needs a lot of life experiences. Well, I need the experience to deliver the right emotional impact. Because a song will carry the emotion in my heart. And anyway.....”

Hwaryeong slightly dragged out her words.

“There are a number of men out there who like me. It is a man's instinct. These feelings are a decent gift.”

Endless optimism!

Hwaryeong was an attractive singer. She wasn't going to lose confidence

because of Weed.

Her colleagues watched her and thought.

‘She still hasn’t given up. Although it didn’t even start properly.....’

‘My mother always told me that love is unsure until the wedding. Isn’t that right?’

‘But why does she like Weed? I don’t understand it...women are truly mysterious creatures.’

Weed put down the backpack with a much lighter heart.

“Then let’s eat!”

“Hooray!”

The taste of dishes that Weed made with his own hands! They were busy on the quest so it was hard to find time to eat delicious food.



“Unbelievable...this ridiculous thing.”

The proud users of the Hermes Guild were devastated as they stared at the collapsed buildings of the Imperial Palace of the Haven Empire.

All the power of the Central Continent was gathered at the Imperial Palace.

Decorated with gold and jewels, the Imperial Palace was the height of luxury and splendour. Vast buildings that more than 100,000 nobles, users and residents could reside in. The Imperial Palace that could house thousands had suddenly collapsed.

In fact, not many users died underneath the buildings.

“How is it possible that the Imperial Palace experienced such a terrible thing?”

“Is this an event?”

“This is divine punishment.”

The cracks in the ceiling and shaking pillars meant that many users

quickly escaped from the Imperial Palace.

Still, it was last minute so a considerable number were buried underneath the Imperial Palace and lost their lives. It was a mess but those alive dug their way out from the wreckage.

Unlike the Earth Palace, the Imperial Palace was built on flat ground so it wasn't a large threat on their lives.

But the Imperial Palace that the Hermes Guild were proud of and caused visitors to be overwhelmed was no more.

“The surviving people, respond!”

“Quickly rescue the survivors...no, it looks like not many are dead. Rather, what are we going to do?”

The general users of the Hermes Guild were baffled.

The users with a high ranking position in the Haven Empire. All the leaders at the banquet including Lafaye and Bardray had safely escaped the palace ballroom but they were lost as they watched the collapsed building for a while.

“The Arpen Kingdom's Royal Palace just fell but this is.....”

“What is happening? It wasn't a magic attack.”

“An uprising? But who would dare say such a thing?”

“Weed. Weed plotted against us!”

“Weed. He is in the north so it would be hard for him to do this. And there is no evidence.”

“I have thought over the circumstances. In the end, he must be the one who did this to us.”

They couldn't grasp the situation and tried to blame it on anyone.

But Lafaye coldly accepted the terrible reality of the palace falling.

‘How did something like this happen?’

Kurururung!

There were still some buildings in the Imperial Palace that were collapsing.

They didn't want to see the sight of the pillars tilting and walls breaking again. All the gold on the walls that had been plundered from other kingdoms had collapsed.

All the Imperial buildings fell to the ground. However, the Hermes Guild users were sure that the gates wouldn't fall.

"They are sound....."

"The last remaining place are the gates."

They had equipped the Imperial Palace with defense gates. The walls were trimmed from large rocks and the essence of elf trees were used as adhesion.

The Imperial Palace could last all day against siege weapons! The gates were also made of intertwined branches and roots. It wasn't made with gold but the gates had tremendous value.

Their relationship with the elves had deteriorated through numerous raids but the Haven Empire didn't care.

As the users watched, rocks fell off the tight palace exterior walls. Just like the other buildings of the Imperial Palace, the gates soon collapsed.

"No way."

"It is a lie."

Ddirring!

-The Imperial Palace of the Haven Empire has collapsed.

All buildings including the Emperor's office, hall of the nobles and knight barracks have been destroyed.

The Sun Palace has lost its function as the capital of the Haven Empire.

Empire's fame has decreased by 49.

The administrative power to rule over the vast territories has deteriorated.

There is a significant deterioration in the politics of the Central Continent. A disturbing movement is building in the occupied areas. There is a higher probability of militant groups forming.

The morale of the troops has worsened.

Maximum training has decreased and corruption might arise among the supplies. In the meantime, there will be frequent desertions when going on expeditions.

Control of the Imperial Army will reduce with distance.

The honour of the knights will fall and many with lowered loyalty will escape.

Local warlords will act against the Empire.

The loyalty of the residents of the Empire has reduced.

In particular, the residents of the occupied territories have a large distrust in the Empire and the backlash can be severe.

A large number of rebels will appear in the occupied territories if you don't settle it quickly.

Intelligent monsters will attack the villages and fortresses.

Merchants will reduce the amount of long distance travel.

A recession might occur, causing the economic power to reduce.

The tax rate will be temporarily reduced.

The confusion inside the Empire will have 42% influence on the surrounding areas.

218 villages belonging to the Haven Empire will leave.

Compensation for all quests associated with the Haven Empire won't be paid properly or will be cancelled.

“Unbelievable!”

They both lost palaces but the Haven Empire suffered much larger damage than the Arpen Kingdom.

The territory of the Empire was vast and its population contained various species. Commerce, culture and military exchange were larger so they were more affected by the collapse of the Imperial Palace.

The expedition sent to the north were wiped out and the Haven Empire had suffered serious damage to its fame.

“A meeting of leaders has been convened! All lords immediately report the circumstances of their respective territories in order to prepare for stabilization!”

Lafaye needed to do a lot in order to rule over the vast Haven Empire.

It was necessary to at least maintain the security and economy of the occupied territories. However, something unsavoury could occur with the rebels and recapturing the fortresses might lead to more substantial damage.

The absolute dignity and power of the Haven Empire that ruled the Central Continent was being tested.

Chapter 2: [No Title]

“No tax, no tax. I didn’t realize when I was young. The chilling taste as I got older.”

“Huhuhuk, yesterday was the first time I registered with 3 females as friends.”

“I have lukewarm beer. Those who drink lukewarm beer can buy 1 cup for 1 silver! A small amount of cold beer is being sold for 3 silver. Those salted with spinach are 2 silver!”

The northern users were having a night festival in the vicinity of the Earth Palace.

All the users had come together to share their joy.

Bonfires were built all over the place and food was cooked. The number of people meant the alcohol and food was scarce so they were sold regardless of the price.

Ttararang!

The harp and guitar were played.

Beautiful female users were dancing around the bonfires.

The merchants willingly supported people wearing armour or wanted clothing.

In fact, it was close to impossible to feed all the people filling the plains. A vast amount of materials were consumed and victory was undecided so that hadn’t bought food in anticipation of a festival.

However, there were a huge amount of supplies from the Haven Empire.

By the end of the battle, the northern users looked like a swarm of ants.

“Dried filefish!”

“Ohh, dried filefish! It would give perfectly with this glass of wine.”

“Aaaaah, another dried filefish!”

“Look here. A whole carriage stacked with dried filefish!”

“All the carriages in the back have dried filefish.”

“This is a filefish’s hell!”

While Weed was busy obtaining loot from the Hermes Guild, there was a procession of carriages. The northern users packed the food and supplies into their backpacks and pockets.

Even the basic weapons of the Imperial soldiers were great.

The steel arrows could be sold at a fairly good price.

The northern users were even willing to go to remote areas to sell the loot.

The merchants smelled money and already bought a lot of loot from the northern users. The merchants already purchased horses and carriages in order to sell the products to other villages.

‘Passage!’

‘I will become the next legendary merchant in the north. The money in this world is mine.’

‘One arrow can earn 60 copper each. How much is this?’

The mind of the users became warm after the war ended.

A wide variety of cheeses, whiskey and other specialties of the Central Continent were generously distributed. The festival celebrating the victory spread throughout the plains.

People were drinking from wine glasses.

“Heeok! Shall we hunt together in the kobold dungeon?”

“Yes, let’s go for Eksoju-nim.”

“Of course. Many northern users have fallen in this place. It has been a really long time.”

“The kobold dungeon was my first adventure. It feels like the past is catching up with me.”

“We won’t be able to feel the excitement of that time.”

“There has been a lot of growth since then.”

“What is Nero-nim’s level now?”

“54.”

“You are awesome! I’m only level 51. Do you have tips?”

“Just work hard and you will be rewarded like me. Little by little you will become stronger.”

“I will keep it in mind.”

In one corner, a cat and mouse chase was occurring.

“I asked you to study! There is a test at school tomorrow but you are connected to the game? Fireball!”

“Kyaak, please help me!”

A number of users were singing and dancing around the campfire.

“In the mountains, the red sun rises and heavy winds blow, chwi chit. The clouds that foretell a heavy battle approaching, I stood at the frontlines with the dark elves, chwit! ”

Male and female users started to sing.

“My fresh hopes in the morning, chwi chwit. Our courage and desire for victory, the noble sprit and soul! I want to sing, chwiik! I have to sing more strongly than the dark elves, a song of my wish to win. If you don’t give up then you can win.”

A song of the orc Karichwi!

More than 1,000 female and male orcs had gathered around a bonfire to celebrate.

The night was dark but there were plenty of people dancing and playing instruments.

The busy users left the plains on horseback in the middle of the night but most remained in order to relax and enjoy the situation.

“Ya, amazing.”

“This is the north’s culture!”

The northern users were able to enjoy a long festival.

“I’ve found a very dangerous tomb. I’ve died three times already.”

“Did you smell a quest?”

“What is that?”

“I smelt a quest related to Weed-nim, the God of War.”

Information about adventure and trade were actively exchanged.

In one corner, the architects were going through the rubble of the Earth Palace with a tape measure and shovel.

“Well, this pillar has split so it can’t be used again.”

“Jackpot. After examining the roof of the Royal Palace, those who made it really paid a lot of attention to durability. We are lucky.”

“Is it possible to recycle it?”

“It is a bit unreasonable. Still, we can take advantage of it even if it can’t be used to reconstruct the Royal Palace. It is possible to use the remaining parts to create a monument.....”

“The stone is well preserved but it won’t take much for it to crumble. Too bad.”

They looked among the rubble for parts that could be recycled. It was a waste to throw away the premium materials that the palace had been built with.

“Use the broken stones to lay the road.”

“The metal can be smelted and re-forged at the smithy.”

“We aren’t lacking steel due to the loot from the Haven Empire. There will be a huge surge in demand in the north.”

“Let’s go quickly. We should take this opportunity to gather a lot of people.”

The architects immediately proceeded with their planned restoration of

the Earth Palace.

The finance and budget of the Arpen Kingdom hadn't been decided yet. But the architects rushed to rebuild because they loved their building.

“In the past, the Royal Palace was built on the mountains.”

“That will be harder now that the mountains are cut.”

“Originally it was a palace with its own unique taste. Can we build up the dirt, stones and sand again?”

“If we work hard then our workforce can make a few mountains.”

“This is the palace so we can easily mobilize millions of people.”

The architects envisioned a terrible plan.

They came up with the plan to use the huge labour force of the north to build a large mountain.

“Hmm, the Earth Palace as good but it only had a medium height. It is okay to drastically increase the height of the mountain by 500 metres or 1 kilometre?”

“It is a good idea to erect the buildings while climbing up the mountain.”

“But then the difficulty of the construction and smoothly maintaining the supply and demand will increase.....”

“The number of residents in the north is always going. If we build the palace earnestly then it will be 2~3 times the scale of the previous palace.”

“This...we really have a lot of practice building a royal palace.”

However, Pavo was skeptical. In his view, the plans for the royal palace were becoming too extravagant.

“I understand your thoughts. My heart also wants to restore the Earth Palace and make it better. But this part shouldn't be handled with an architect's greed.”

“Huh?”

“The Arpen Kingdom needs a palace as soon as possible. If the Royal Palace isn’t present then there will be a downturn in the cultural and commerce development.”

It would be a disadvantage to governing a territory if there isn’t a palace.

The regional villages and cities wouldn’t run smoothly, identifying and managing state affairs would be difficult and taxes would be lowered. Due to corruption, there would be some budget losses and security wouldn’t be maintained at 100%.

The sheer size of the Arpen Kingdom meant thieves would become more frequent.

There would be a disadvantage with large facilities, commercial buildings and work buildings. If it wasn’t a big city like Morata then establishing public buildings would become more difficult.

Users who were knights wouldn’t be given advanced skills.

General users who went to a place where the kingdom’s fame was low might be forced to accept disadvantageous quests and trades.

In the meantime, the Arpen Kingdom had grown without a palace.

The users received the disadvantage early on so they took it for granted.

But after accepting a number of territories and having a population boom, the palace was now necessary for the development of the kingdom.

The architects also knew this part.

Merchants made villages and cities wealthy but the architects firmed up the foundation. They constructed buildings and saw the population and commerce growing every day so they couldn’t be happier.

Architects made stunning buildings for the main streets as well as comfortable places for people to live.

Pavo’s opinion continued.

“Now is the time for the Arpen Kingdom’s development so our desires as

an architect can't be greedy. Aren't the northern architects better than this?"

"Make the necessary buildings. The buildings for the people."

"Yes, that's right. If the architects are too greedy then the schedule will be lengthened and an endless amount of funds will be needed."

"Uhh, the plan to rebuild the palace on a mountain is too reckless."

"It is important to build fast but this palace will play a pivotal role in the Arpen Kingdom."

The architects stayed up all night and established a basic plan for the reconstruction of the palace.

1. The Arpen Kingdom will be rebuilt on the back of the current rubble.
2. The building materials from the wreckage will be reused if possible and the rest will be procured through merchants.
3. The palace will be built on a flat area that is 3 times larger than the past. After the central area is complete, further expansion can be added as required.
4. Near the palace grounds will be a city larger than Morata with a river. In particular, the best land will be pre-assigned for 7 Grand Buildings.
5. For the future development of the Arpen Kingdom, the new city will be called 'Dawn City.'
6. For a seamless workforce and to save on construction costs, new users will participate in the basic development of the palace's construction.
7. Shacks will be built for 7 days and will continue to grow with future needs.
8. All architects in the north will co-operate with the foremost goal being the reconstruction of the Royal Palace.

"Is this enough?"

"Unfortunately any more will be greedy."

The architects decided to announce the plan to rebuild the palace.

But without revealing it, they internally agreed on some extra stipulations.

The Royal Palace will become an impregnable fortress in order to ensure that such an unfortunate event won't occur again.

The new palace has to be big and luxurious in order to not embarrass the Arpen Kingdom.

Construction costs should be saved as much as possible so the minimum budget for the palace and city will be 17 million gold. The construction costs will increase if necessary.

If Weed knew this then he would immediately collapse.



Python and Seasoned Crab had considerable achievements in the war against the Haven Empire.

After coming back from the southern desert, they hunted the Hermes Guild and Haven Empire without any hesitation.

Python tried to protect the Earth Palace from the 1st corps and continued to fight until the end of the battle. Python didn't know the meaning of retreat and survived until the end.

Seasoned Crab was an assassin and went around the battlefield killing the powerhouses of the Hermes Guild.

While the cold weather and tsunami were happening, he had repeatedly infiltrated the enemy and assassinated them.

“Well, only this much? There is no obstacle in taking their lives.”

14 leaders of the knight divisions as well as countless top knights lost their lives.

Seasoned Crab determined their deaths.

After such great achievements, they met up with Weed.

Weed had sent them a whisper first so they were expecting something

after the fight finished.

‘Heoheot, my ugly pride. Should I blatantly talk about my skills? Then I need to say a lot.’

‘I am the one who decides death...anyway! They won’t be able to talk about me in this war. Nobody in the Hermes Guild escaped my knife. I took advantage of the turmoil in the war to use my skills.’

The two men were going to boast to Weed. They wanted eat and drink while telling war stories.

Pale nodded silently after seeing that the two men had arrived.

‘He has also survived the battle of the Earth Palace. He really is the famous Python.’

‘War heroes are gathered in this place. An assassin must have enjoyed it.’

Then Weed said.

“I hope you didn’t wait long.”

The two men thought.

‘Indeed, Weed will know 3~4 people here. I want a place. I’d like the north’s leading experts to meet each other.’

‘Well, it is an embarrassing but fun spot. I’ve only introduced myself to female users. But I need to tell them a pseudonym. Cappuccino s acceptable to people.’

Python and Seasoned Crab’s expectations!

Soon Hestiger arrived.

“Great Emperor, all the enemies who have been hiding are defeated. The kingdom is now secure.”

“Yes, thank you.”

The two men squinted at Hestiger.

They had confirmed his unparalleled strength on the battlefield. He was

a strong opponent but their pride wouldn't let them admit defeat.

'My sword is larger.'

'There is only one life. I would like to try assassinating him. If I have the perfect opportunity then anyone would die.'

After a while, Alveron the pope candidate of the Freya Church arrived.

Some of the general users didn't know him but Python and Seasoned Crab were well aware of his identity. During Weed's crazy hunting, the one with strong recovery magic that was like a curse!

'Keeok! This configuration is surely.....! No, it can't be, no!'

'H-hik!'

And Weed said.

"Then let's go hunting."

Weed could only resurrect Hestiger for a single day.

He wanted to use him as much as possible.

Irene, Romuna and his other colleagues were too tired to take into danger so they were given a break. Instead of fighting well, they might end up killing their colleagues during the hunt.

"....."

"....."

Python and Seasoned Crab's eyes urgently met.

Their eyes blinked a few times before they talked.

"I'm dizzy and my body is uncomfortable....."

"There is an emergency and I have to go home."

It felt like a student lying to a teacher in order to leave early.

However, Weed was persistent.

"Are you really not feeling good?"

"Yes. I'm not a man who would boldly lie to you."

“There is no other choice if you don’t want to go. Just relax and tell me. In the future, do you not want to hunt with me?”

“I need to rescue others. I’m a good person.”

“You are indeed feigning illness.”

“.....”

“Hestiger, your sword. Today I will spill some blood.”

“Yes, Great Emperor.”

“.....”

Seasoned Crab didn’t say anything and was lured along.

Thus they stayed up all night hunting!

There was the strongest warrior Hestiger so they could clear the dungeons with the highest difficulties.

Hestiger could defeat monsters just by punching them.

“My father was worried about thieves and hid a mysterious shovel. In the end, no one could find it.”

The quests associated with the dungeon were meticulously performed.

There wasn’t a lot of risks so there was only short breaks. There was no such luxury like sleeping or eating as they stayed up all night hunting.

“Once again, every minute counts. I want to do as much as possible before Hestiger leaves. Hestiger, this is to protect the peace of the continent so move faster.”

“Understood, Great Emperor. Your great and noble heart hasn’t changed at all.”

“It is hard to defend justice. So I need to work harder. The sleeping treasures of the world...no, I will definitely resurrect justice.”

They hunted in the Northern, Central and Southern Continent.

It was just a brief stop in the central regions so the Hermes Guild didn’t notice them. If possible, he wanted Hestiger to wipe out some enemies

but there was no time.

Weed was also worried about invading the Haven Empire.

“There is only a few hours left until Hestiger disappears. Should I feed Bardray to him?”

The Imperial Palace had already collapsed but the Haven Empire currently contained some of the highest levelled people on the Versailles Continent.

If Hestiger went there then he could get good results by killing a large number of Hermes Guild users. Weed felt a lot of pleasure at the thought.

The only one who could pull it off was Hestiger.

In the future, it would be difficult to resurrect a strong person like Hestiger with such absolute obedience.

There were other desert subordinates that he could resurrect but it was a dangerous idea.

Weed didn't become ruler of the desert through benevolence. He had showed off his power. Every time he chased after a quest, his subordinates were decreased by a few people.

They thoroughly obeyed Weed but it was a completely different situation once they were resurrected. Weed would be weaker than the desert warriors.

“A few of them are dangerous and might even try to loot the Arpen Kingdom.”

Weed thought for a while before eventually abandoning his plans to invade the Haven Empire's Imperial Palace.

It was risky to have Hestiger go to the Imperial Palace to slaughter the Hermes Guild users.

There were tens of thousands of the best users.

A variety of professions as well as NPC knights.

He would be able to deal with more enemies than Van Hawk but

Hestiger wasn't immortal. Weed and Alveron couldn't help in that environment.

It wouldn't be good if Hestiger was like Van Hawk and was killed by Bardray. Killing the legendary hero would increase the morale of the troops and the authority of the Empire.

If Hestiger's power fell from the battle then a result similar to the battle between Van Hawk and Bardray might appear.

From the Hermes Guild's perspective, they could make a lot of money if it turned out well.

And there were quite a few high level users so killing them would incur a penalty and reduce the power of the Hermes Guild.

In the end, Weed decided to use Hestiger to supplement his losses.

Weed had succeeded in the final secret sculpting technique quest but had suffered a lot of damages.

"Yurin, let's go to the next place."

"Yes. I've been preparing. Picture Teleportation!"

After defeating a dungeon, Yurin would move them to another place.

She drew a few destinations in advance. She just needed to finish off Weed and his companions and they could move quickly.

'The devil's skill. A painter and sculptor is truly like the devil.'

'I don't have the rights of a human while hunting. I am just like a combat slave. The human brain and body is moving while my spirit has flown away.'

After the all night hunting, the party finally returned to Morata.

It was after a series of continuous hunts in the southern desert so they were mentally and physically exhausted. Right now if a level 2 novice with a knife came to rob them then they would hand over all their money.

Most users were at the Earth Palace after the Haven Empire's invasion so Morata was unusually quiet.

There was almost no one entering and exiting the gates so it felt like a miracle.

In the aftermath of the war, the victory festival was still going on. But soon people connected to Royal Road and returned to Morata in droves.

New users were also starting in the north.

By the time Weed arrived with his colleagues, novices were busy doing the apple delivery quest.

The bustle of the city.

The sound of birds chirping as they woke up in the morning. The warm sun, cool breeze, clear birdsong and scent of flowers that could be felt on adventures was a big advantage of Royal Road.

“Great Emperor, I was assaulting monsters until the end even if I was too old. Now it seems so peaceful.”

“I think so too. I’m sorry. We encountered many things in the desert.”

“I’m tired. I would have liked to see Great Emperor’s ambition in the past.”

“This world made me passive and quiet.”

Python and Seasoned Crab stared at Weed and Hestiger with disbelief.

The relationship between the two of them was overly inflated. The ridiculous conversations that they shared while hunting! It was like a nightmare had come to life. They were fatigued so it had a large emotional impact on them.

Hestiger bid a nice farewell to Weed.

“It was an honour to serve you again. Your power might be weaker than it was in the past but you are still the Great Emperor. It is truly impressive that you are committed to the peace of the continent.”

“Well, it isn’t a big deal. I’m just trying to live right.”

Weed had pulled a cover over his eyes.

Hestiger turned his head and looked around when they were near

Morata's gates.

"The faces of people ruled by Great Emperor is filled with laughter. Looking back, this is the kingdom that we dreamed of. I Hestiger, don't regret dedicated my life to you."

"Yes yes."

"Go in peace. Although the path in front of you will be rough and steep."

A shimmering light started to appear around Hestiger's body. Then his body became increasingly blurred.

The time limit of Sculpture Resurrection had reached its end.

A proud hero from the warring period was disappearing completely.

Weed's face was filled with satisfaction. A subordinate he raised well in the past had done well so he was filled with pride.

'I also have benevolence.'

He wouldn't see Hestiger any longer so he didn't feel hateful.

'The concept of a good subordinate.'

He never even praised his sculptural lifeforms!

While he was fading away, Hestiger opened his mouth.

"Master, I have some last words for you."

"Go ahead, loyal Hestiger."

"The other day, I was telling Master about my trip."

Y-yes. I remember."

"While wandering the land with large footprints, I met a human adventurer called Lodsiker who arrived at the land of the giants."

"Hoh, I have heard of Lodsiker."

The adventurer Lodsiker.

A legendary adventurer that could be called the hero of the profession.

When looking at the history of the Versailles Continent, he had experienced all types of rare adventures. Finding the existences of unknown sea creatures and many unknown lands.

A master of survival and directions and a person who had returned unharmed from all 10 forbidden zones. He recorded implausible adventures and explored underneath the sea, underground worlds and hell.

At the time, Lodsiker was considered an irresponsible noble but he discovered things that hadn't yet existed in the world.

He wrote books regarding his adventures but sadly most of them weren't passed down to the present.

<101 knowledge that adventurers need>

<Method for young adventurers to write a will>

<The reason we need adventure. You can only meet pretty girls after successful adventures> These were the three books that remained.

Those that read the books could drastically reduce the damage from traps and their sense of direction went up.

The Adventurers Guild set a very large reward and treasure for those who found the tracks of Lodsiker.

Greet momentarily formed in Weed's eyes.

'Lodsiker's bounty has exceeded 300 million gold...I also heard that he owned many rare things.'

The blind greed that couldn't distinguish between the front and rear.

"Lodsiker explored the land of the giants with me. And from there....."

Ddiring!

-Information about Lodsiker has been acquired.

"Uhh, I feel faint. It is time to leave."

"It can't be. 3 million gold! Tell me more about Lodsiker before you go!"

“Great Emperor, there is no time. If you find the Allium flower while following the large footsteps to the red monument then you will be able to know the rest. Maybe...something there will be waiting for Master.”

Ddiring!

-Land of the Big Footprints.

Beyond the end of the world, there is a ship made of dead nails. The giants live close to the territory of the gods and the red monument will hold a clue regarding Lodsiker.

If you bring a never fading Allium then Lodsiker’s spirit will wake up.

Level of Difficulty: S

Adventurer Quest.

Compensation: ‘Lodsiker’s Promise’ quest.

May be linked to the epic ‘Myth of the World.’

Quest Restrictions: Information about Lodsiker. Limited to adventurers or those with the Explorer title. The continent’s greatest adventurer fame.

-This is an adventurer only quest but the specific special request means that you can proceed.

“Heeok.”

Weed finally realized what was happening.

‘Quest.’

He had forgotten about normal quests for a while due to his sculpting technique quest. But originally he had floated all around the continent on quests.

‘S class difficulty quest. And it involves Lodsiker who is a master adventurer.’

Lodsiker’s quest probably had an awful degree of difficulty!

If he wanted to resolve this adventure himself then he would need to accumulate his level.

An adventurer's quest was often more difficult and required using their heads. If the right clue wasn't found then he would have no idea where to go next.

Using a specific adventurer skill or infiltrating monsters were sometimes required. Weed would have to bulldoze through it with a sculptor's skills.

Weed could see a thorny path stretching out in front of him. It seemed like a difficult path that would require an aircraft to pass over.

'No matter what the problem is, I have confidence that I can solve it.'

He would approach any difficulty and would overcome it. Even the final secret sculpting technique didn't scare him.

'I need to actively carry out quests. There is a limit to growth through normal hunting.'

I couldn't use the final secret sculpting technique yet so I needed to diligently raise Time Sculpting.

But even so, it was dangerous to go on a perilous adventure at the moment.

'I need to raise my lost levels. And take care of my kingdom. There is a mountain of work to do.'

He would challenge the uncertain future at another time!

'Well, I constantly obtain chances. With my fame, just saying a few words will allow me to quickly obtain a kingdom quest. Several minor ones would be better than one big quest.'

Weed quickly said.

"Hestiger, I have heard about that adventurer from bards. He is one of the most sought after people in this era. Deserving to be called a true hero."

Hestiger smiled and said.

"I am relieved to hear Great Emperor say that. Be sure to listen to my

words. I hope you can fulfill Lodsiker's wishes."

-You have accepted the quest.

"Keeook!"

Hestiger disappeared in a bright flash of light that connected the earth and the sky.

Chapter 3: [No Title]

“What was that? Teleportation magic within the city?”

“No. It is greater than that.”

The users and residents gathered together while making a lot of noise.

Weed then broke up the group.

“Then I’ll see you again soon. I will call you if I start to hunt.”

“I’d rather you kill us.”

“I know that you have worked hard during the hunt. If you manage your vitality well then you will be healthy.”

Weed headed to an alley in Morata.

The alleys were complicated like a spider web.

In the early days, the fountain was in Morata’s Central Square. Wyvern Square, Bingryong Square, Light Square and Bull Square were formed as the city expanded, turning the downtown area into a place filled with alleys.

He didn’t dare push for redevelopment.

‘Well, people’s memories will remain in this place. The traces of people living...a warm affection attached to it.’

In reality, many undeveloped areas had expensive rent. Looking back, it was a nice environment to create solidarity between the residents.

People who lived in the neighbourhood for decades would know everyone. Food would be sent to the elderly and it was common to see children playing with each other.

Then talk of redevelopment happened due to greed and the neighbourhood was in a frenzy.

Redevelopment would have big and clean buildings but the people could no longer live there.

In the evening, residents would gather at the big department stores and

the unique sentiment of the neighbourhood disappeared.

The large, clean buildings and renovated city caused the residents to change. The feelings of the past didn't remain anymore. Only the graffiti and old buildings contained the memories of the people.

He wanted to leave the old streets of Morata as intact as possible. Culture wasn't something that could be created by force but naturally accumulated over time.

'Redevelopment will required a lot of money. I still get taxes anyway. There are many benefits to living in narrow streets.'

Morata's old streets, shacks and stylish commercial buildings but it was the residence of many adventurers.

Due to Weed's adventures, the Arpen Kingdom also had architectural features of the Niflheim Empire.

The market place was a thriving centre of commerce and users were endlessly growing.

"Now the Haven Empire won't bother us?"

"Yes. They were wiped out!"

"Hooray! I really wasn't expecting to win."

"Soon the Arpen Kingdom and the whole north will be wide open."

The novice users were running around on the streets.

Weed's beginner clothes was so common in Morata that no one paid attention to him.

Weed walked past the people.

He had come to the collapse palace in order to check the kingdom's internal affairs.

"Well, my mind is firmly prepared. The damage caused by the war is too big."

The Haven Empire was defeated but the Arpen Kingdom still suffered losses. Dozens of villages were destroyed and land devastated, causing the

crops to be planted again.

“I need to find out the exact details. Internal Affairs mode! ”

-<Arpen Kingdom>

A kingdom ruling over a wide territory on the Northern Continent.

The Arpen Kingdom is filled with people living scattered over a wide land. The residents living in isolation have welcomed the trade and culture of the Arpen Kingdom.

Most of the villages have increased their population through birth and settlers.

But the residents are trembling in fear due to the invasion of another empire.

Parts of the kingdom's territory has been taken away and the residents have embraced the invaders as the rulers. Although the Arpen Kingdom won, there is a distrust in the military due to the war.

Thanks to the Royal Palace collapsing, some villages have declared their independence while others are watching the situation with anxiety.

Residents have gathered together to drink the specialty wine of Morata.

“There are many things in the kingdom. Plenty of food, sculpture and art. The technicians improve themselves in their field. But the knights and soldiers are lacking.”

“I knew this day would eventually come. His Majesty is actively devoted to development projects. It might be better in the future but we are anxious about today. I don't know what security will be like in the distant future. We were all prisoners before.”

“Wasn't there a big victory? That is a good thing. However, my mind still can't feel at ease. Another kingdom might succeed in invading because we don't have the right military force.”

After the war is over, reclaim more than half of the Arpen Kingdom's lost territory or its political influence won't recover.

The residents and villages who believe in the Freya Church will have prosperity and abundance. But due to the war, many people are uneasy and have joined different religions.

The king who was religiously treated as the 'Divine King.' His religion has deep faith and there is no doubt.

King Weed fought through the bitter cold to create the city of Morata. The northern residents haven't forgotten the favour of the king who saved them from hunger and a life filled with anxiety.

Recently the residents of the Arpen Kingdom have been pursuing stability and abundance.

The fear caused by the invasion of an empire has spread to trade and production. Investment in art and public facilities have been suspended.

Approximately 63 new cities and villages are growing in the kingdom. The numbers are insufficient so the birth rate will increase.

The capital of the Arpen Kingdom has been broken so many things are a mess.

Military Power: 13,389 Economic Power: 45,942

Culture: 41, 030 Technology: 63,482

Religious Influence: 84 Kingdom Politics: 45

Influence on Surrounding Areas: 71% Kingdom Development: 77

Hygiene: 43 Security: 81%

The residents of the north that belong to the Arpen Kingdom are anxious but still happy.

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

The aggressive activities of the merchants means that the carriage production can't catch up.

The road conditions in the kingdom are becoming increasingly worse. Trade is essential in order to establish a safe and fast road. Recently the

Alkazar Bridge has been destroyed so the merchants have lost an important trade route.

A merchant trying to open a shop in a rural village said.

“These days, the mood of the market is unusual. Good things aren’t being sold. This is all due to the war!”

“Well, things used to be worse. Before the Arpen Kingdom was formed, everybody was eating tree roots. Just believe in His Majesty.”

“Aren’t the thieves continuing? They are stealing things...hmm hmm! If they are left unattended then larger groups of bandits will appear!”

New island villages and maritime trade are continuing to be found.

When leaving for distant seas, there is a 15% chance of returning alive and experienced sailors are always scarce.

Strange rumours have been going around Varna Port recently.

“Gold! There is an island made of gold beyond the Velazquez waters. You don’t believe my words? This isn’t something I picked up by chance... I am thinking of leaving. A world of gold, isn’t that worth risking your lives?”

In the agricultural sector, farmers are experimenting with new crops.

“Grain production is enough. We should consider planting new crops for flavour and nutrition.”

The farmers have successfully expanded the herb cultivating area and there has been a recent surge in tea leaves due to the tea drinking craze.

Adventurers have found many traces and relics of the Niflheim Empire.

The residents are uneasy about the military power of the Arpen Kingdom.

There is a small army but they’ve only recently experienced war. Knights are learning new sword techniques and are becoming proficient in fighting on horseback. The soldiers accurately realized that their role in big battles is to survive as long as possible. The high loyalty of the

residents means that many people are volunteering to become soldiers.

The development of the kingdom has become stagnant due to the war and the peace loving residents hope that this situation would finish soon.

Kingdom's Total Population: 39,281,932.

Monthly Tax Revenue: 18,292,048.

Kingdom Operational Expenses:

Military 32%, Technology Development 6%, Economic Development 26% , Cultural Investment 6%, Commissions and Monster Subjugation 11%, Road Construction 16%, Religion 3%

Military Power: 13,214 knights, 39,382 training knights, 538,102 soldiers.

A large amount of new soldiers have flocked to the Arpen Kingdom's military.

They wear armour and shield but still aren't used to spears. Anyway, the new soldiers know nothing aside from eating.

Fortunately, the knights have exceptional bravery and commitment. They are the shining swords that will save the kingdom in a crisis.

"Ahem."

The inside of Weed's head was complicated.

The economic power and population had significantly reduced since the last time he checked. This was because of the villages that left the kingdom.

Taxes were based on technology and economic development so the collected amount was reduced.

"The internal affairs of the kingdom has worsened due to the Haven Empire's invasion."

The Arpen Kingdom had been brilliantly developing. However, the aftermath of the war shook the entire kingdom.

The spacious gaps between the villages meant that many villages were lost.

The villages that broke away would continue cultural and economic exchanges with the Arpen Kingdom and might eventually rejoin. Even so, the tax collection from some villages wouldn't be smooth for the moment.

“The Grand Buildings and roads are delayed and I need to strengthen the military.....”

The Arpen Kingdom was mainly focused on development projects. The cities could expand thanks to the Grand Buildings.

After the Grand Buildings were constructed, the entire area could develop.

Areas like Morata and Vargo Fortress were bustling but the driving force of the development of other areas were the Grand Buildings.

However, the war had put off the construction of the Grand Buildings.

It was impossible to maintain that rate of development now. Resources needed to be collected for mine development and city expansion.

Weed felt a heavy responsibility as the king.

“Hrmm, this...where should I start?”

The king's permission was required to proceed with intensive business development in certain areas and would give mandatory orders to the army. Various measures were required to develop the vast Arpen Kingdom.

Weed looked through the king's commands available.

The king's decree could mobilize the military and develop the economy. He could also grant nation quests to the residents.

-Kingdom Wide Monster Fight

Send at least 30,000 soldiers to root out the lairs of monsters.

An absolute way to restore peace and order.

It will assist in the soldiers' training.

290,000 gold will be consumed.

“No. Too expensive. Let’s move on.”

-Ambush the Thieves Rich in Treasure.

The control is running out of money due to the thieves.

Take control of public opinion through firm security.

But it won’t be easy for the military to clear out all the thieves. The sacrifice of the soldiers and elite troops will be large.

140,000 gold will be consumed.

“I’m not sure. High level users will be able to sweep up the thieves. And there aren’t that many thieves in the Arpen Kingdom. Later I will suppress the thieves and take care of their treasures.”

-The Study of Magic.

Constant developments are being made in magic research. Magic towers can strengthen the existing magic in the kingdom or create new spells.

Scholars and magicians will greatly welcome this policy.

A minimum of 200,000 gold will be consumed.

“That won’t work!”

-Construct Barriers to Stop the Invasion of Monsters.

This will stabilize the kingdom and eliminate the anxiety of the residents.

The barriers built at fortresses and the troops stationed means there is no need to worry about the invasion or looting of monsters.

A minimum of 260,000 gold will be consumed.

“Barriers...the monsters don’t hit so hard that they can’t be hunted.”

The king could also use the edict to conscript soldiers.

But after the collapsed of the palace, conscription would just reduce loyalty and security even further.

It would also be tough to maintain the troops in the army. They needed

to be clothed and fed. Aside from the paycheck, compensation needed to be paid if the soldiers were killed.

The installation of various training facilities and supplies to fight against monsters so consumption would increase exponentially.

An army wasn't called a money eating hippo for nothing. Everything consumed money!

"It is really tough to rule."

Weed could also construct buildings in the style of the Niflheim Empire.

Building facilities such as public baths or stadiums in Morata could help with commercial development and loyalty.

But that was nothing when looking at it from the scale of a kingdom.

The destruction of the Royal Palace required an astronomical amount of money to recover. In order to resume the large scale of the kingdom, money needed to be spent on the construction of the Grand Buildings.

He also needed to improve the quality of the troops and the growth of the economy.

Nothing could be neglected.

It was realistically difficult to catch up with the Haven Empire in the short term.

"Then what I have to do...yes, I have to actively promote the development of the kingdom."

Weed came to a conclusion and nodded.

The Arpen Kingdom had been stagnant for a while but it would continue to grow. There was no need to fret about the situation.

"I am like the weeds in the ground. Tough like a cockroach."

Weeds would continue to grow even if they were pulled out.

Cockroaches would live while endlessly multiplying.

He would sprout up.

There was only the city of Morata in the north.

Right now the military power was dependent on the Freya Church and the northern users. Under no circumstances would these conditions continue.



“He really did it.”

“Like he promised us.”

“I’m sure we’ll see more of him later.”

“He really showed us the full results.”

Roam, Gunter, Michel, Carlise and Sherwood were gathered in one place.

Until recently, they had been famous figures on the Versailles Continent.

Roam of the Roam Guild, Gunter of the Lion Star guild, Michel of the Black Sword Mercenaries, Carlise of the Black Lion Guild and Sherwood of the Cloud Guild.

The elite rulers of huge guilds.

Despite teaming up for an alliance, they were crushed by the Haven Empire. People quickly forgot their names.

There were too many things going on in Royal Road. The influence of the Hermes Guild had spread and now they were barely remembered.

They pretended to be other people and didn’t do any open activities.

People who weren’t seen often were quickly forgotten.

‘I’m a loser.’

‘It was just a butterfly like dream.’

‘The Haven Empire is so strong. Looking back, I was just a puppet. They were holding hands through the whole thing.....’

They couldn’t recover their dreams.

The guild was either disbanded or reduced to one third of the size. The famous guild members were chased by the assassination squads of the Hermes Guild until they were forced to hide deeply.

After their defeat, the Haven Empire quickly took over their territories until it was impossible to recover.

They could only watch the Versailles Continent helplessly until they were contacted.

Weed the God of War.

King of the Arpen Kingdom and Bardray's only rival.

'Hmm, a proposal to unite forces. It is regretful then he most likely can't block the Haven Empire. However, Weed the God of War...looking at that name makes me think of how I suffered.'

'What do I have to lose? There is nothing. I will watch and make the decision. But Weed...well, he is Weed. Taking into account all the possibilities, I can't easily refuse his offer.'

'The Arpen Kingdom stop the invasion. But the Haven Empire's Imperial Palace also ended up breaking? I never thought they would suffer like that. It is ruthless. Hasn't he returned what the Hermes Guild did to us?'

The collapse of the Haven Empire's Imperial Palace.

People speculated that the cause was due to Weed's actions.

Roam and Michel were users from Continent of Magic.

At that time, they had built enormous forces in Continent of Magic. Then they learned about the character of Weed.

"A guy like that? Kill. I will let him know the price of crossing us."

"I don't know how strong he is but let's send some people to the area."

Royal Road was a virtual reality so they were a little more cautious. But Continent of Magic involved looking at a computer screen so their decisions were more spontaneous. They trusted in their basic skills and

level.

And a war with Weed!

Well, the result was a defeat and a new title of God of War.

In the war with Weed, they fell into a trap that they couldn't escape. They had larger numbers but were placed in a disadvantageous situation.

Weed had the perfect attack, defense and equipment so it was impossible to catch him.

They heard that 1,000 people in a guild went to attack Weed in a dungeon.

Other prestigious guilds gave up but Roam's pride was strong.

"It isn't a big deal if a lot of people suffer."

Despite the dangerous situation, blocking him in the dungeon was a golden opportunity.

Roam led a group but was attacked by monsters, caught by traps, killed by Weed and then robbed.

The dungeon area and monsters were already under Weed's reign.

Before his death, Roam was convinced.

'Strong. I admit it.'

In the meantime, he had defeated quite a few quests in Continent of Magic.

The pride of the guild was damaged by one individual but it was still a good game.

At this point, Weed's personality could easily be seen.

"I've built up a lot of stress. It is worth fighting these guys."

Weed controlled the monsters with special items.

It couldn't be imagined due to the zoom of the monitor but an endless amount of monsters invaded the city. Weed was determined to wipe out the Roam Guild from its roots.

His actions were enough for someone to shake their head and call him a dirty bastard.

The land was cursed and it became a monster habitat where humans couldn't live. Roam's territory was changed into a hunting ground.

Roam exploded with rage.

"No, the damage we inflicted on him...isn't it enough to just kill us? He didn't need to do this to us!"

He cried out with anger but the public opinion of Continent of Magic wasn't favourable to him.

Roam wasn't a very good lord and people were excited about the new combat legends being written by Weed.

Weed the God of War, he was untouchable.

A figure that remained prominent in the people's minds.

And that wasn't enough.

Roam and his group settled in a new place. But Weed continued to chase them and wiped out Roam and his subordinates.

He was outraged after dying 5 times and by the time he died 10 times, he no longer felt like fighting. He just wanted to reconcile with Weed in order to live in peace.

After the 20th death, he became determined.

"I will never forgive him. I will show him hell no matter what it takes."

They realized what suffering really was.

They wanted to ruin everything related to Weed.

After losing their lives 30 times, all the power drained out of them. There was no motivation to live.

Weed came like the god of death and they spoke for the first time through the message window.

Unlike Royal Road, they naturally had to type into the keyboard.

Roam: Why the hell are you doing this to us? You've already got your revenge. Is it just out of spite?

Weed:

Roam: Say something!

Weed didn't attack for a while. And then the chat window came up.

Weed: It is hard to meet high level monsters.

Roam: Perhaps...do you think we are monsters?

Weed: Unfortunately I can't get stronger monsters.

It is necessary to hunt to increase his level. Fighting against users was risky but there were benefits. Roam and his guild were considered a great hunting ground. He could obtain extra loot.

Despite feeling like it was unfair, Roam bowed his head.

Roam: Let's stop now. I want to live in peace.

Weed: I don't want to.

Roam: We can't lose much more. And isn't this enough for you?

Weed: Bad mood.

Roam: Why are you in a bad mood? We were wrong so let's not have any hard feelings in the future. Give up everything related to revenge or retaliation.

It was humiliating but he didn't want to fight anymore.

Weed was silent. And after 30 seconds, another message showed up.

Weed: The rent on my house was raised.

Roam: Why does that matter?

Weed: The bus fare went up as well. Cabbage and onions are much more expensive than last year. I don't feel good. The negotiations broke down.

Roam:

Roam made the judgement after finding out Weed's intentions.

'He is the devil. A devil I can never associate with.'

Roam quit Continent of Magic and was given an opportunity to start Royal Road.

Roam successfully settled in Royal Road and become one of the leaders of the continent. The popularity of Royal Road meant his forces were much greater than Continent of Magic.

'Weak people aren't required. I need to configure a strong guild.'

The Roam Guild contained the most elite troops. Just like the Hermes Guild now, it was a source of great pride to belong to the Roam Guild.

Nevertheless, Roam was always anxious.

'The devil might come to Royal Road. That guy is considerably strong. I don't want to admit it but his senses are excellent.'

There was no guarantee that the same thing as Continent of Magic will happen but he didn't want to cross paths with Weed again.

'I don't even want to hear residents speak the name Weed. His fame didn't have any meaning in Royal Road. No, he might have even changed the name of his character. But Royal Road is an incredibly spacious place.'

Yet after a while, he heard news about Weed.

-The Freya Church's request was a success. The adventurer Weed has found the Fargo Crown!

"Hey, this can't be. It is just someone with the same name."

-The Immortal Legion was defeated. The orc Karichwi. Weed the God of War!

"Heok, that guy!"

Since then, Roam kept an eye out for Weed's adventures. The same was true for his colleagues in the Roam Guild.

At the time, the Roam Guild held a meeting to discuss measures against

Weed.

“But this is lucky. He is active in places far away from our territory.”

“Well, he is a sculptor so his fighting skills are gone. Isn't this a chance to get revenge for Continent of Magic?”

“We tried to retaliate hundreds of times and still failed.”

Roam waited.

He couldn't strike properly in Continent of Magic. He didn't want to mess with that devil again.

“We can't afford to waste the guild's power on someone not related to us. We should concentrate on our development.”

Most of the prestigious guilds from Continent of Magic kept an eye on Weed. And sighed with relief when Weed succeeded in his adventures and swept through the arrogant Hermes Guild.

‘It is fortunate that we didn't mess with the devil.’

Since then, Weed continued his miraculous successes until he was killed by Bardray in the Melbourne Mine.

Putting aside the fairness, a defeat was still a defeat.

‘Even Weed is helpless in front of that power.’

Afterwards they were busy fighting against the Hermes Guild and didn't care about Weed.

The alliance was formed but they lost everything.

On the other hand, Weed completed the final secret sculpting technique and even blocked the Haven Empire's army.

Roam was filled with deep emotion after watching the scene.

‘He is indeed a devil. He is quite a strong guy.’

The northern users believed in Weed like he was a god and it was difficult for Roam to rationally accept.

Words couldn't describe Weed.....

Roam, Michel, Carlise, Gunter and Sherwood gathered after being contacted by Weed so they had a lot of expectations.

The losers had come together to hear the opinion of one person on the continent.

If Weed held out his hand then it would be good to join forces.

At the very least, allying with Weed meant they might be able to regain their lost territories from the Haven Empire.

“But he isn’t here yet.”

“Well...there isn’t a set time so let’s wait a little more.”

“After winning the war, he obviously needs to handle some urgent problems.”

They knew there would be a call from Weed shortly after the war ended. It was to discuss the possible combat operations against the Haven Empire.

However, there was no contact after a few hours.

Sherwood from the Cloud Guild struck the table.

“Damn!” How long do we have to wait here?”

Sherwood had a violent and bad character in the past.

The Cloud Guild had quite a lot of personnel early on. In order to raise the power of the guild, he had hired recklessly. He used blackmail and shook a carrot in order to attract small guilds under his banner.

The guild reigned ruled over areas of the continent until they were shattered by the Hermes Guild.

Once the 5 prestigious guilds turned shabby, Sherwood’s character changed quickly.

Gunter of Lion Star just laughed lightly.

“This isn’t something to be angry over. It is just part of the negotiation tactics.”

“Negotiation tactics?”

“Deliberately making the opponent frustrated while waiting so that he will gain the advantage in negotiations.”

Michel nodded like he agreed.

“Haven’t you seen Weed’s combat videos? It could be called the best. And it isn’t necessarily a bad thing that we’ve gathered first.”

Sherwood understood but he still seemed annoyed.

“It still feels dirty. It is like he is poking fun at us.”

“Rather than focus on your feelings, it is important to lower the risk in the negotiations. Let’s think about it now.”

“It is still unpleasant.”

“But can we really suppress the Hermes Guild if we join forces?”

Gunter was skeptical.

“The Arpen Kingdom has showed the possibilities. Of course, it wasn’t the entire Hermes Guild that was defeated.”

The alliance that had a lot of pride were defeated.

The Hermes Guild had nearly two thirds of the forces on the Central Continent. And there were many high level users.

They directly experienced how strong the Hermes Guild and Haven Empire were.

In particular, Carlise of the Black Lion Guild feared the Hermes Guild. After their loss in the Melbourne Mine, the Hermes Guild had gradually devoured them. A long term plan was executed perfectly. He saw how powerful the Hermes Guild was.

‘But the Imperial Palace is broken. The Haven Empire’s ability to rule has been disrupted. Security will worsen on the Central Continent and rebels will form. An opportunity. We need to move straight away.’

‘There is no time to waste in a place like this. Gathering users and snatching fortresses from the Hermes Guild.....’

Weed had kept the embers alive and this was their last opportunity. If he led an uprising in the area.....!

They quietly ate the food while discussing ways to fight the Hermes Guild.

“I’m bored so let’s play poker.”

“Sure.”

“We might as well be comfortable while waiting.”

“I want to botch his plan to use our impatience to gain an advantage in the negotiations.”

Despite waiting the whole night, there was no contact from Weed.

In fact, Weed had gone to the bathroom and had forgotten about contacting them by the time he exited.



“Kukuku, hahahahaha!”

The Bandit King Steiner!

He was delighted with the misfortunes of the Haven Empire.

“Security is now poor so there is no better environment.”

Since the collapse of the Imperial Palace and the annihilation of the northern conquest army, many rebels had emerged in the Haven Empire’s territory.

“We are being exploited by the governor!”

“Citizens of the Tullen Kingdom, it is time to defeat the invaders.”

“A militia is being formed to courageously fight the Haven Empire and we are gathering in that back alley.”

Ddirring!

-Struggle for Independence

The Lasalle Kingdom being conquered by the Haven Empire has brought great suffering to the local residents.

One of the 10 forbidden zones, Averian Forest is located near the Lasalle Kingdom and the people are famous for their fighting spirit.

Help the locals get revenge on the army of the Haven Empire.

The people will feel gratitude towards you.

Level of Difficulty: C

Quest Reward: Deep affection with the local residents, quests related to resistance activities will emerge.

Quest Restrictions: High intimacy among the local residents.

“These words, hmmm.”

“It is tempting so should we try it?”

“Knock it off. Don’t you know how strong the Hermes Guild is?”

“It is a linked quest. The end of the quests might give proper rewards.”

The active users in the Central Continent could easily access quests associated with the resistance.

It was too easy.

Many residents were complaining about the Haven Empire. Just drinking at the tavern would have related quests appear.

There were also quests related to the former Croin Kingdom.

Ddirring!

-Croin’s Tax Transportation Carriage

There are no secrets in this world. Huge amounts of tribute and taxes taken from the Croin area are being moved along the Bensa River.

Those with courage, what are you waiting for?

You can obtain a lot of money and treasure from destroying the convoy.

An attack on the Haven Empire will be enthusiastically welcomed by the people
Level of Difficulty: C

Quest Reward: Even if you succeed in looting, infamy won’t rise.

Returning the taxes to the residents will increase fame by a huge amount.

Quest Restrictions: Those appointed as knights of the Haven Empire can't get quests from the residents.

"This is a big deal."

"Why?"

"The quest isn't hard with our skills but it will 100% cause difficulties with the Hermes Guild. We can never live in the Central Continent."

"What is life? There is no guarantee the Hermes Guild will find out and if things become unfavourable, we can just go live in the north."

"The north? Hmm, I wanted to live in the north anyway. I can appear on television on a daily basis."

"We should go to the north after succeeding in this quest."

"We will give the Haven Empire a gift before leaving on a long journey."

"That's what I wanted to say. I like it."

The hearts of the users in the Central Continent were swayed. And users succeeded in their quests.

The Hermes Guild's power started being weighed down by the users.

Events started to occur all over the place.

-Rebellions are breaking out all over the place.

-The scale of the resistance is expanding as they are joined by local troops.

-The security vacuum means that many lords are being looted.

-The residents are on the brink of an explosion of discontent. They are ignoring the dignity of the rulers.

"Unbelievable. This is too much."

"It is shameful that something like this has happened to the Haven Empire."

"It is because security and loyalty is low."

“What is the right thing to do? It is hard to maintain high security and loyalty in the occupied territories. A series of successive incidents have suddenly occurred.”

The Hermes Guild kept on receiving negative messages.

Due to the collapse of the Imperial Palace and the destruction in the north, public sentiment was greatly agitated.

Normally the Empire’s reign was firm but most of the territories in the Central Continent were conquered. The high taxes, conscription and threat of exploitation meant the Haven Empire’s policy was the worse.

The users of the Hermes Guild spoke among themselves.

“At his rate, aren’t we screwed?”

“Perhaps...although we have a stronger military power. The leaders can quell the minor disturbances.”

“The Haven Empire can’t be shaken. Our guild is strong.”

“My heart holds strong respect for the guild. There is nothing we can’t win by force.”

The users didn’t doubt the military force of the Hermes Guild.

Their power was enough to unify the entire continent. Those who joined the Hermes Guild had an obvious pride in their military power.

“There are enormous amounts of complaints from the ordinary users. Quest rewards have been suspended due to the collapse of the palace.”

“It is easily ignored. How dare they forcefully try to claim compensation?”

“They are on the weak side so we can ignore it but the atmosphere is bad. We should demonstrate a strong power against the resistant users. Beat them all up.”

The users of the Hermes Guild confirmed the damage through the information network.

Surprisingly, confusion and rebellion was occurring through various

parts of the empire. The confusion in each area of the Central Continent couldn't be ignored.

The roots of the Haven Empire were currently being shaken.

There were many problems in areas with low loyalty and security but the Haven Empire's military power was enough to suppress the rebellion.

The lords and military moved against the rebels.

Even so, the timing wasn't ideal.

It wasn't long after the conquest of the Central Continent.

The failure of the northern conquest expedition and collapse of the Haven Empire meant unpredictable holes occurred at a time where they needed to stabilize their rule.

Chapter 4: [No Title]

Lafaye, Bardray and 25 local lords and governors held a roundtable meeting. They were the ones who would decide the policies of the Haven Empire.

Lafaye held his face for a while.

‘I need to be vigilant. We can certainly win wars but the weaknesses in governing needs to be considered. The Imperial Palace collapsed and we can’t overlook the results.’

This was the biggest emergency since the founding of the Haven Empire.

The meeting was held to discuss the critical issues raised by the defeat in the war with the Arpen Kingdom and the sudden collapse of the palace.

They received reports of the damage situation of the empire in real time.

Huge damage hadn’t occurred yet but the rebels was causing small and huge confusion.

“Let’s immediately conquer the Arpen Kingdom! We will let them know what happens to those who make fun of the Haven Empire.”

“Hrmm, a war at this time...we would need to reorganize the forces and dispatch additional supply units. The burden of sudden commodities will arise.”

Public opinion was against another war.

The northern expedition had consumed a huge number of troops, supplies, finances and time. The Haven Empire could afford it but it would be a waste.

The influential Hermes Guild users or war heroes were appointed as lords or governor of a region.

They played a role in making decisions in the guild but there was

confusion due to the aftermath. They were no greatly reluctant to conquer the north.

In addition, the core lords knew many of the internal secrets of the Hermes Guild.

Lafaye played a large role in establishing this empire.

After dominating the Central Continent, he had planned to focus on long term rule. The secret plan that would ensure the empire would last for a long time.

The core lords and governors for Lafaye and Bardray's decision.

"Just go forward and smash them. I will be in the vanguard. Bardray-nim should take command!"

Darius strongly insisted.

He had started in the Rosenheim Kingdom and used to be the guild master of the Ica Guild. But due to his bad reputation, he left his home for the Central Continent and joined the Hermes Guild through bribes and social networking.

He rapidly grew in Royal Road due to the support of the guild. No matter how they treated others, the guild knew how to handle their members.

His status and influence wasn't enough to attend the leadership meeting but he had a special connection with Bardray. He prepared good hunting grounds for Bardray and was guaranteed a seat at this meeting.

Darius would swing his sword at any time for the Hermes Guild.

The hardliners and the moderates!

There were divided opinions from those who wanted another war or those who wanted to settle the chaos.

Lafaye felt that now was the time to make a decision.

"A war needs to be decided carefully."

The meeting room fell silent as he started to speak.

“As you know from the reports still coming in, this incident has had a profound and unexpected impact on the Haven Empire. The northern conquest army being wiped out and the destruction of our Imperial Palace has dealt a blow to our pride. The palace is the core of our reign and the damage of the collapse has spread across the region. If we don't rectify the situation now then it will grow beyond our guesses.”

It was a meeting of leaders but it was still led by Lafaye.

He used the intelligence agents spread out across the continent to understand the current status and to predict the future. Lafaye and Bardray were the ones who could influence the policies of the Hermes Guild.

The lords and governors were puzzled but they felt positive.

‘The true hidden power hasn't been revealed yet.’

‘It is counterproductive if it is disclosed too early. It is possible once things worsen.’

Lafaye spoke with a heavy tone of voice.

“The internal security has reduced with more rebels growing so the empire will fall further in the future. And we are notorious. Anyway, it will be a disaster if we just ignore it. The rebels will keep coming and there will be consequences if we don't suppress it early on.”

The Central Continent was wide. If the rebels took over fortresses or cities then it could cause substantial confusion through the whole empire. If the rebels continued to increase then it would deal severe damage to the national power.

But Lafaye was prepared despite not knowing this originally.

“It is fortunate that we have many means available. The military can easily win over independent cities and the lost economic power can be compensated from other areas. However, we have to completely give up on the war and use our power to control the chaos in the empire.”

Lafaye turned to Bardray.

“We should ignore the Arpen Kingdom and focus on unifying the Haven Empire. If the chaos isn’t settled now then it might spread.”

Bardray who was still watching finally opened his mouth.

“A war can certainly help with recovery.”

“Of course. If Bardray-nim chooses a war then the Arpen Kingdom will be ours. The north has substantial power but if our troops deal with them calmly then we can conquer them. But in order to maintain the Haven Empire’s pride and dignity, we would have to use more advanced troops.”

“Advanced troops.....”

“Half of them will be the Hermes Guild members and half the Haven Empire troops. We would be able to destroy Weed and the northern users.”

“Isn’t that too much?”

“In order to ruin Morata and the major cities, this type of army is required. And it must be done in as short a time as possible.”

The configuration of the Haven Empire’s army passed through their heads.

This time, 1.7 million troops had been destroyed.

There had been numerous knights of the Haven Empire. Many knights were raised in the Central Continent so it would be easy to recruit to fill up the numbers.

The Haven Empire currently had the strongest military power.

However, a large scale military expedition would worsen the security of the empire and conscription would decrease loyalty and economic productivity.

Currently the leaders of the Hermes Guild didn’t want a large amount of materials to be consumed or an economic recession. The stability of the Central Continent was already threatened due to the constant destruction and conquest.

Rumours spread quickly around the Versailles Continent.

If someone achieved a great adventure or a magician developed new magic then it would emerge from the mouth of the residents.

If the fame of the Haven Empire fell then rebels would emerge from among the residents.

The big losses caused by a war would make it harder to rule.

But Bardray's mind was still leaning towards a war.

“Even if the recovery is slow, isn't it better to cut off the Arpen Kingdom? It would have a greater value to quickly complete the unification of the continent. Pulling out their roots will prevent future opposition.”

The sympathetic Hermes Guild members nodded at those words.

The Hermes Guild would remain as the strongest organization on the Versailles Continent.

If the north was neutralized then there wouldn't be an end to the Hermes Guild's rule.

It was worth it even if the internal affairs of the empire were shaken at the moment.

“It is difficult to say which one is better. If we choose to recover then the Arpen Kingdom will develop in the meantime. It isn't very long but it will give them a bit of time. On the other hand, sending a large force to the north would only worsen the confusion inside the empire.”

“What are the specific problems?”

“The empire hasn't finished its conquest war. If the territory isn't stabilized then the momentum of the resistance will rapidly grow. There are also many people who have been defeated by us. They will use this confusion as an opportunity.”

“We have firmly planted defeat in them through the war.”

“Of course. The follow up measures where their power was divided or

absorbed means they have remained silent until now. But they will likely use this chance to cause a revolt. The defeated enemies hiding all over won't be easily quelled...there might be a civil war even after conquering the north. In the worst case scenario, the conquered territories will be destroyed and the residents reduced, dropping the power of the empire."

"That can be a difficult problem."

If Bardray left on a large scale expedition then it would leave the Haven Empire open to their enemies.

They already occupied a large territory in the north so troops had to be stationed there on an ongoing basis. The conflict between the north and the Central Continent would affect the entire Versailles Continent, causing a lot of confusion.

When that happened, all residents and users of the Versailles Continent would be hostile towards the Haven Empire.

No matter how great the power of the Hermes Guild, they didn't want all the users hostile towards them. In addition, there would be a severe backlash inside the guild.

Crebulta shook his head.

"The difficulty comes after establishing a kingdom."

"A huge tower took a long time to build only to have the stones come crashing down. Even so, this situation isn't entirely bad. We still have the lead and haven't suffered any fatal or serious damage. We have a choice. We are making a decision for our future. And both choices had pros and cons so we just need to minimize the side effects."

There were many hardliners among the leaders of the Hermes Guild.

Currently they were those who had a high status in the Central Continent or commanders who swept through several kingdoms.

Even so, they weren't sure about the risks involved with a war while all this confusion was going on.

The Haven Empire had already achieved a great feat.

Their territory, population, economic strength, technology and military power was the best on the continent. Public sentiment causing a civil war was their weak point.

Everyone wanted a long term and stable rule.

If the Hermes Guild and Haven Empire didn't conquer the hearts of the continent then there would be another war.

Lafaye had prepared a secret plan but it was necessary to keep it hidden. He needed to strategically deal with the crisis.

Bardray suddenly asked.

“If we select recovery...what will happen after that?”

“We will thoroughly stabilize the inside of the empire. Rectify security so that a resistance army won't rise up and raise the loyalty of the residents. Use some carrots instead of force. The Central Continent is a place of economic prosperity. Now we can use an economic reconstruction policy in the areas impoverished from war.”

“There will be more profit with a short term recovery. There is honour and potential advantage in conquering the north.”

Users who started Royal Road early on started in the already prosperous Central Continent.

The prestigious guilds took over cities and their military policies concentrated on survival and looting. The successive wars caused many setbacks to economy and technology.

“There is huge potential in the Haven Empire. Promoting a development plan over conquering will raise the residents' loyalty. Our rule will continue to be stable over a long time.”

Lafaye said in a bittersweet tone.

Despite the positive outlook, he thought it would be better to stabilize the area then to proceed with the northern conquest.

Bardray nodded.

“Stabilization and development. Looking at it objectively, it is better to postpone the unification of the continent.”

“I can see that. The unification won't be perfect unless we conquer the north, east, south and west. The conquest of the continent won't be finished until that time. Of course, the rest is just a matter of time once the north collapses.”

The leaders were locked in thought for a while.

‘Development and chaos. It was certain we would conquer the north... but the Imperial Palace collapsed and caused a lot of anxiety.’

‘Conquest. Conquest. All the people resisting. Show them the strength of the Hermes Guild!’

‘It is necessary to revive the glory of the Central Continent. And areas with low security will have strong resistance. Even though they will be repressed, it will still cause damage. I don't want the glory of the empire to suffer.’

‘We need to choose a way where the Haven Empire won't collapse. We can go after the Arpen Kingdom once the confusion is settled. Apart from the internal problems, there are no opponents that can match our military power.’

‘Weed. He is troublesome until the end. That damn fellow. We should have killed him sooner.’

The leaders ignored that the Arpen Kingdom would use that time to develop.

Although Morata's growth was so fast it could be called a miracle, it eventually slowed somewhat.

On the other hand, if the economic power of the Haven Empire was restored then they would become 3~4 times stronger. There was no competition in the first place.

Furthermore, the Haven Empire had already conquered one quarter of the Arpen Kingdom. Their royal palace was also destroyed so they might be

in a similar situation.

Their honour and pride was at stake but they didn't think of the Arpen Kingdom as an enemy.

The lord of the free city Stangdal asked.

“If we select recovery then does that mean the Arpen Kingdom is being left alone?”

“Of course. We will have some precautions in place. Although our army fell, we still had some achievements in the north. We will continue the military training in the current occupied territories in order to pressure them. It will be a significant burden to the Arpen Kingdom. We will also cut off trade and block traffic to the north. The isolation means it will be difficult for them to develop as quickly as they did previously.

Most of the Hermes Guild's strategy emerged from the brain of Lafaye. Lafaye had no choice with the follow up measures.

The development of the Haven Empire and Arpen Kingdom would continue further in the future but he was certain he could win over other competitors. But he couldn't predict how much benefits would come from his decision.

Moreover, his opinion alone couldn't move the Haven Empire.

The Hermes Guild had vast forces. A big decision like this needed the other leaders to give their consent.

Bardray and the leaders made their decision.

“We will delay the war for a while. Now we will fix the confusion and strengthen the empire.”

“Yes, I understand.”



Yoo Byung-jin gave up on meeting Bardray and returned to his laboratory.

“The Arpen Kingdom triumphed in the end.”

The Arpen Kingdom had unexpectedly blocked the invasion of the Haven Empire.

Weed has overcome the adverse situation again..... Luck really followed him. Of course, nothing has significantly changed.”

The ruler of the continent was still likely to be Bardray. But Weed also had a chance.

Yoo Byung-jin was disappointed as he watched the meeting of the Haven Empire on the monitor.

“It would be enough to strengthen their rule after conquering the continent. The future is unknown but isn’t that a perfectly reliable and obvious choice? The Hermes Guild is strong despite their enemies.”

-Should I check the number of people that dislike the Hermes Guild?

“There is no need.”

-I am cancelling the analysis.

The Hermes Guild had constantly won the wars. They identified the enemy well and accumulated power through victory.

Their development was a miracle like the Arpen Kingdom. The Hermes Guild was one of numerous guilds in the Haven Kingdom and their empire had amazing growth.

Bardray and Lafaye dominated their many competitors to rule the territory.

The Arpen Kingdom that settled on empty land in the north certainly had a lot of difficulty.

Lafaye and Bardray who expanded despite their enemies could also be called heroes. Preparing a long term plan for ruling could be called admirable.

“From the beginning, Bardray should have gone directly to the north. The others wouldn’t be able to compete with the power of the Haven Empire.”

A few small mistakes and inattention.

It gave time to the Arpen Kingdom.

Yoo Byung-jin thought about the future based on what he knew. But history would flow in its own way.

Bardray and Weed weren't the only ones on the continent.

Numerous users were creating their own history.



“This is the last chance given to us.”

“I agree. The Haven Empire is being shaken so we can regain our positions.”

“The two pillars of the world can be divided into the Haven Empire and the Arpen Kingdom. At that time, people will join us.”

“It is better to come forward before it is too late. The Central Continent is inherently ours.”

Roam, Gunter, Michel, Carlise and Sherwood.

They met up and steadily gathered information about the chaos in the Central Continent. And eventually, their remaining subordinates and co-workers came forward in order to secure power while the Haven Empire was in turmoil.

“A person in the Barang Cavalry contacted us about participating.”

“I am very grateful. They will be a big help.”

“Some people from the Asirium Guild has decided to join.”

“I haven't heard news about them in a while. They were still going strong?”

“They've been completing adventures but their power seems to be in the past.”

They used their personal connections to gather colleagues and to contact the leaders of other guilds.

The users of the continent had yielded to the power of the Haven Empire. Those who had no opportunity for opposition were now standing at a crossroads.

“The Hermes Guild’s information network is great. We need to resolve this before it is made public.”

“Tomorrow evening, we will regain our lost territory starting with Fort Odin.”

“The battle to rule the region will be effective. Does anyone disagree with this approach?”

“No complaints.”

“Then let’s get started.”

The so called Day of Revolt!

13 fortresses in the Haven Empire received a surprise coup and had their territories stolen.



“This can’t be a failure.”

“Definitely. It is perfect.”

Teros and his 6 colleagues entered a dungeon with 50 NPC mercenaries.

Their individual skills were enough to make them famous in Royal Road.

They used to be one of the top 10 guilds until they made a mistake while excavating King Belsos’ tomb and caused heat to fall on the continent. Then they joined the Cold Roses’ expedition and failed after their betrayal.

The Crimson Wings Guild were shattered and only Teros and a few people were left.

They had high infamy and fell to a low position.

The prestigious guilds were smashed by the Hermes Guild and there was no difference between their levels and the ordinary users. Teros and

his colleagues had no choice but to wander around the north on adventures before accepting a quest.

-Secret of the Stars and the Moon

Do you know the mysteries of the Versailles Continent? Even those who know a lot are still ignorant. From now on, everything you experience will be new.

Go to the Muhejadin area and find the unknown figures carved into the ground.

Find the clues about the stars that will lead to the next secret.

Level of Difficulty: S

Compensation: Receive a chain quest.

Quest Restrictions: More than 1,000 knowledge.

Experience with long distance travel.

“A linked quest!”

“It has a tremendous difficulty.”

Teros tried to refuse due to the events in King Belsos’ tomb.

“We have other work to do.”

-The star quest can’t be cancelled.

Luck has permanently increased by 7.

You have accepted the quest.

“Dammit!”

“It is okay. We can spend a few months gathering information about this quest.”

-You have accepted the special quest.

You must complete the quest within the next 15 days when Ursa Major isn’t visible.

If you are unsuccessful then the curse of the stars will be granted.

“Keook!”

So they received a chain quest.

They wandered the Versailles Continent and found the secret of the stars and the moon.

They risked their lives finding the land of the stars in an unknown area and the secret led them to wander the sea.

Most of the fleets belonged to the Haven Empire. It was difficult to rent a boat for the adventure but he eventually found a captain at Varna Port.

“Uhihit, a sailing boat with 4 jibs is finally leaving for the sea. It won’t be sunk by giant lobsters again.”

“Hmm hmm, can you guide us to a place shown on the map?”

“Um, here? I roughly know the location. Using the sea currents to Jigolaths can be a short cut.”

“Look, you are holding the map upside down.”

“...Ah! I am familiar with the sea even if the map is upside down. Don’t worry.”

Captain Hook led them on a long voyage that lasted 17 days.

They encountered storms, a group of dolphins and even man-eating sharks. If they hit the reef then there would be threat from sharks.

And after arriving on the island, they found the fragments of a meteorite and returned to Varna Port five days later.

“Hahaha, that was a great sail.”

The people aboard thought it was ridiculous.

‘A short distance...a novice could have sailed it.’

‘We didn’t need to sail through the danger area.’

Teros shook his head.

“Anyway, we’ve returned safely.”

They were grateful just to arrive back on land. Teros had become more

generous since the collapse of the Crimson Wings Guild.

Gale, Dein, Pulain, Mako, Psyche, Bastien defeated several chain quests in a row.

In the past, they didn't participate in dangerous quests but risking everything was pretty fun.

Above all, the group had struggled to come back from the worst so they used all their concentration not to receive the curse.

Looking at the mysterious Milky Way increased their knowledge and wisdom and their charm under the moonlight increased.

“Weed must always feel like this.”

“Life feels different. My perception of the Versailles Continent has changed.”

They were lucky in their adventures but some of their colleagues needed to be sacrificed.

Bastien the assault captain of the Crimson Wings, the witch Psyche and the assassin Dein.

Nevertheless, they overcame it and reached the end.

-Signs of Birth

The stars eventually defeated their opponent, the giant Arkihemos

The fallen giant sank deep into the ground and caused a massive geological change.

Find the entrance and head down into the ground.

Arrive safely at the place of the giant and listen to his words.

Level of Difficulty: S

Compensation: Heart of the giant, traces of the stars.

They arrived at a swirling hole in the ground.

“We can't make it.”

Dein agreed with Teros.

“Probably.”

“This might ruin the continent.”

This time Bastien sighed deeply at Teros’ words.

“We can’t receive any more curses.”

Indeed. The Crimson Wings had struggled after two horrible mistakes.

“The stations?”

“I’ve contacted them. There is a deep curiosity about the S-ranked quest. They have decided to broadcast it.”

“The salary.....”

“Of course, the sum is higher but there are more conditions. The cast are treated better.”

“The popularity of Royal Road is at a record high.”

This was the first big adventure after the war ended.

Teros was satisfied with this part. Adventurers chased after a slim possibility but accomplishing it would give them fame and economic compensation.

The witch Psyche indifferently said.

“Then we will go to die.”



Weed entered the largest store in Morata to sell the loot obtained in the war.

“Nowadays, people are swarming like flies. Customer-nim, what did you come for?”

“I want to sell some things.”

“Oh, did you come to sell weapons or armour? These days there haven’t been many guests so I haven’t been buying. Many are in such bad states that repair is needed. Therefore I will buy carefully.”

“I have both weapons and armour.”

Weed said while browsing through the store.

A large weapons store near Bingryong Square in Morata.

It was usually filled with people but now there were only 6 people inside.

Users flocked from Morata to the Earth Palace so there were mainly beginners who couldn't leave the city left.

Weed looked over at them.

"I want to buy a really sharp dagger. I can use it to cook and hunt."

"A greatsword is best for a warrior. Monsters can't even come near. The combat videos submitted by Python...kyahh!"

"Vitality will fall quickly. We can't use it yet."

"Gather a lot of money and buy it later."

There was a serious conversation between beginners staring at a display.

"Customer-nim should pull it out. I don't have much expectations but I will give you an honest price."

Weed laid his backpack on the counter for the storekeeper.

Kwaaaang!

The dull sound of a pile of steel falling.

The 2 beginners turned their heads to look at Weed.

"It looks like he did a lot of hunting."

"It actually might not be that much. A basic magic backpack is able to reduce the weight and volume. If you don't have a magic backpack then hunting will only last 2 hours at most."

"How much weight does a good backpack reduce?"

"Do not be surprised. Approximately 15 times."

"Amazing! You can hunt all day long."

“Drago the best tailor in Morata uses a special magic. His top of the line backpack reduces the weight but 20 times so the rating is almost legendary. Drago-nim’s work is really valuable.”

Weed placed his hand in the backpack while calmly listening to the beginners and took out the weapons.

“Please calculate them one by one.”

“I know. Well...the quality is great. The blade is sharp enough to cut iron like it is an apple. I’ve seen this item a few times in Morata. A price of 20,000 gold is appropriate.”

“The cost of the shield?”

“There isn’t even one loss and it is a perfect product. Where did you get these type of items?”

“I was nervous that the shield would be damaged but it is okay?”

“Well, I think that 35,000 gold is reasonable.”

The eyes of the beginners widened.

An unimaginable price.

The goods in Morata’s stores were usually traded for a few hundred gold.

Luxury goods were worth tens of thousands of gold but such trades weren’t common. The stores selling weapons and armour usually had limits but high level and rare products were acknowledged.

“Who the hell is he?”

“The shield he just removed from his backpack doesn’t look ordinary.”

Weed continued to pull products from his backpack.

“Stigma Hammer! A luxurious hammer that plants fear in the other party! The product is in the perfect state of preservation so I will gladly give you 43,000 gold! Ohhhh, it truly is like a dream! There are only 10 of these swords on the continent! The price is 70,000 gold. However, if you sell it then I will buy it for 80,000 gold...this is a special armour that

blocks the attack of witches so it is difficult to set a price. It is hard but I am willing to pay 90,000 gold...aaah! Master Star necklace! A treasure that blacksmiths and tailors are eager to get! Sell it to me. The price...tell me how much you want first. I will pay it even if I have to sell the store.”

None of Weed’s items were cheap.

Products worth tens of thousands of gold!

The mouths of the beginners dropped open.

The number of goods were unbelievable but more products kept on emerging.

“W-who?”

“Did he rob a treasure house?”

“No. That belt...I’ve seen it on air.”

“I know. The only one in the world. Debis of the Hermes Guild obtained it through a quest.”

Weed pulled out famous goods that were easily recognized.

“Is he a thief who stole it?”

“I didn’t hear that it was lost. Who would steal things from the Hermes Guild?”

“Ah, I heard that Debis died in the war yesterday.....”

“Then that person’s identity is.....”

The beginners fell silent. A great person had showed up so they didn’t dare say anything.

Once Weed removed over 100 items from his backpack, he asked the storekeeper.

“How much is it?”

“Let’s see, the calculation is complicated...please wait a moment, Customer-nim. If you want to sell all these items...the total is 3.26 million gold.”

A price that was as absurd as an iceberg flying across the sky!

Weed's eyes narrowed.

'Cheaper than I thought. It can't be helped since it is the wholesale price.'

It was common to either be charged the original price or an extravagant price in trades.

In the north, there were plenty of agriculture so food was sold for a relatively cheap price while weapons and defense equipment were considerably more expensive. There was an avalanche of users in Morata so there was an arms race, making a phenomenon where supply couldn't keep up with the demand.

In particular, advanced goods were sold at a very expensive price.

Weed had obtain many items from the Hermes Guild so he could dispose of it at an expensive price. He could sell it to other users or at the auction.

But the war had just ended so it was a special time.

He wiped out 30,000 Hermes Guild users and an incredible number of weapons and armour dropped. The market price of general weapons and armour would temporarily be shaken.

The sharp price decline couldn't be avoided.

Weed spoke in a heavy tone towards the storekeeper.

"The price is appropriate but in the future I won't bother coming here for a steady trade."

"Customer-nim, it is difficult to receive a higher price than this. There aren't many stores that can afford it....."

"It is small. There are many other stores in Morata."

Weed started packing the items.

A common example of not being satisfied!

Of course, this was a calculated act.

“That is a good idea, Customer-nim.” You are a person with an urgent personality. If you trade me these products then it will help life the value of the store. I will purchase everything for 3.47 million.”

-The 1st bargain is a success.

You can get a huge profit.

“Aaaaah, the price incredibly went up with some words!”

“I can eat barley bread for the rest of my life and not raise that much. Awesome.”

The eyes of the beginners kept watching.

“How about it, Customer-nim? Do you agree?”

Weed touched his chin and pretended to struggle.

Generally, people would only succeed the first bargain unless they were a merchant. It was essential to have networking and the accounting skill to raise the price of the transaction.

But I can't be satisfied with this degree.'

He could get this price by disposing of it with Mapan. He came to a store in Morata in order to get a higher price!

“People of Arpen, you've gone through a lot of suffering.”

“Huh?” Customer-nim, what are you saying?”

“Those who worked hard and are faithful to their field have helped the Arpen Kingdom grow.”

“Saying this all of a sudden...n-no way!”

The storekeeper stared at Weed with amazing before falling to his knees.

“Your Majesty! This lowly person is only greeting you now. It is a sin that I didn't notice earlier!”

Weed nodded like it was a natural reaction and said.

“I didn't tell you in advance so that there isn't a burden on you. I wanted

you to feel comfortably without worrying about my status.”

“No. A stupid human like me must die. It is an absolute sin not to recognize the ruler of this land. In order to protect Your Majesty’s dignity, I must offer my neck to the guards.”

The 2nd weapon against the storekeeper in the negotiations was his status!

The users and NPCs in the village enjoyed seeing the ruler.

“I can eat everyday due to the grace of Your Majesty.”

“Thank you very much for taking care of us. My chicken laid an egg so would you take it? We aren’t hungry.”

A lord would receive hospitality from the locals.

Frequent events like this could increase the fame, security and loyalty of the residents.

As king of the Arpen Kingdom, Weed didn’t individually meet every resident. In fact, he knew from the information published on the internet that the storekeeper was descended from a noble of the fallen Niflheim Empire.

“You don’t need to repeat the same words. The people of the Arpen Kingdom deserve to live a happy life.”

“Your Majesty, I want to die.”

“Rise. I won’t be responsible for the death of anyone in Morata and I just want to make a deal. I realize that a merchant like you can easily pay a high price. Hmm hmm.”

“Your Majesty...do you really want to trade?”

“That’s right. Go ahead and say the right price.”

“I can’t possible give Your Majesty anything less than 4.32 million gold.”

-The 2nd bargain is a success.

If this deal is closed then it will be the largest deal in Morata.

“It really is Weed-nim.”

“Amazing! The highest ground.”

For the novice users, it was like an elementary school student spotting a celebrity. They viewed Weed as such a great presence that they didn't dare come close.

One side of Weed's mouth rose. The amount was a little lacking compared to the number in his head.

“Uhuh, I don't think so. You didn't say the right price.”

It meant to raise the price a little bit.

Some of the greedy were successful up to the 4th round of bargaining.

“It is unfair for Your Majesty to receive a small price. But please think of my situation as I only have 4.02 million gold.”

-The 3rd bargain has failed.

The price of the deal has been reduced.

“.....”

Failure!

Weed's eyes became narrower.

If he disposed of the goods at a later date and ripped off the users then he could receive 5.5 million gold.

“You surely want to die. If you don't speak the right price then your neck is mine.”

“The right price?”

“That's right. I will only accept an adequate and affordable price. If you don't say it then I will strangle you!”

The nature of an NPC store owner meant he noticed things faster.

“I am aware of all the people that will enter if I am selling things from Your Majesty. I-I will pay 4.93 million gold.”

-The 3rd bargain has achieved incredible success.

The deal was likely to fail because the store owner was left with no gain.

Please note. Infamy will rise after this deal.

Weed didn't care in front of money.

"Hmm hmm, your devotion is good. I knew that I found the right owner to sell these things at a good price."

"Of course Your Majesty."

"The Arpen Kingdom will not forget your commitment."

"Thank you."

-Morata's largest profit in a trade has been achieved.

The bargain has ended due to the threat.

Morata's store owners will be afraid of a future visit from the king.

Infamy has risen by 3,450.

The loyalty of the residents has decreased.

Honour -3.

Security -1.

Weed left the store with satisfaction.

From now on, he would become really busy with his growth. Full scale hunting and raising his skill proficiency was ahead so the deal was satisfactory.

And after 2 hours, the video of Weed against the store owner reached the internet and received some of the highest views.

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

After connecting to Royal Road, Seo-yoon once again headed to the Bean Porridge unit.

"Kyak, we won. We survived!"

"Festival, a festival!"

There were cheers among the Bean Porridge members.

The Arpen Kingdom achieved victory today due to them so Seo-yoon felt sincerely grateful.

There was an odd silence when she approached the boisterous Bean Porridge unit.

“.....”

And a small voice whispered.

“That person is coming.”

“She is coming because the battle is over.”

“Coming at the end, really cowardly.”

“It is too much. How can she casually appear after the battle?”

The words weren't loud but Seo-yoon heard them.

She had always kept a distance from people.

There were bad preconceptions about her but she just watched from a distance. Her cold heart meant she wasn't wounded by their preconceived notions.

But now her heart hurt.

It had only been a short while but they were good people. This misconception rose because she failed to explain the situation.

If she told her story then she would convince them.

But she was embarrassed to talk about the wedding ring and its relationship with Weed so she was shamed after giving up the battle.

A woman who was her previous colleague came up to her and said.

“Unni, you came?”

“Yes.”

The tone wasn't very welcoming.

The woman gave a small sigh.

“We are going to drink alcohol if unni would like to come.”

“.....”

Seo-yoon didn't know if she should accept. She was sorry and wanted to restore the situation.

But the others were still looking at Seo-yoon coldly.

“I don't drink alcohol. And if I give an explanation, will you listen?”

“Say it.”

“I didn't fight last time because.....”

Seo-yoon lightly smiled.

She was still ashamed but now she could give an explanation. She would try to resolve the misunderstanding.

Her heart had opened and she wanted to get along with others.

“Kuweeeeek!”

Then a strange sound was heard from the sky!

‘Did a tough monster appear?’

The Grass Porridge Cult members hadn't expected a monster to appear.

The people looked up at the sky to see a wyvern coming down.

An angular face, mild eyes and wide wings.

“Wy-3?”

“A sculptural lifeform!”

The popularity of Wy-3 exceeded some famous users.

“Kkuek! Kuweeeeek!”

Wy-3's voice was filled with complaints as it came down.

Wy-3 cause a severe gust of wind as the users around Seo-yoon urgently moved away.

The sculptural lifeform was a symbol of the Arpen Kingdom and King Weed.

The Grass Porridge Cult members worshipped it but up close Wy3 was a large and menacing figure. They were instinctively wary of an oppressive monster.

Of course, the users of Morata had seen Wy-3 a few times and knew to throw meat to it.

Wy-3 pushed his big head against Seo-yoon. Then it said in a complaining voice.

“Kuoooh. Master said to bring you. He really only uses me.”

A wyvern lamented a life as a means of transportation!

Seo-yoon nodded and comfortable boarded Wy-3.

“Uh.....”

“Unni?”

The people who knew Seo-yoon were stupefied.

The coward riding on Wy-3’s back!

In addition, the master that Wy-3 mentioned was Weed.

“Unni.....”

“Sorry I didn’t tell you in advance. Then I’ll see you next time. I have to go now because he is calling.”

“Unni, you know Weed-nim personally?”

“I...am his friend.”

Seo-yoon took off mask covering her face after getting on Wy-3.

Her appearance.

The appearance of a person.

Not only that, the appearance of beauty that a human would aspire to.

A face that would shake the soul of men.

There were many people but they couldn’t even speak one word. They even questioned if they were seeing a real person or looking at an illusion.

A female ghost meant to enthrall people.

Seo-yoon smiled brightly.

“See you next time. I hope you’ll do well.”

And then Wy-3 pushed off the land and accelerated.

And the people stared for a few minutes before stuttering.

“U-uuuuack!”

“I’m not going to wash my eyes! Ah, no, I should close my eyes. That image needs to be perfectly imprinted in my head!”

“Life is really worth living, huhuhuk! I am lucky to live in an era like this.”

“This is why I’ll get married. I will even be happy in the grave!”

The immature men were bewitched.

The people in the vicinity of Seo-yoon thanked god for the blessing given to them.

The females also liked to see a pretty girl.

“The way she is wearing that mask...the one who accompanied Weed-nim on the sculpting quest.”

“She was on television. The one who played the role of Hilderun!”

And someone asked a question.

“But isn’t that face somehow familiar? It doesn’t make sense since I would remember an unspeakable beauty like that.”

“Isn’t it exactly like the Ice Beauty? I thought so as soon as I saw her.”

“That’s right, that face!”

“Heeok! The goddess of the Grass Porridge Cult!”

The Ice Beauty excavated by the Grass Porridge Cult!

One of Weed’s sculptures with such a beautiful appearance that it was worshiped like the Goddess of Freya Statue.

-The goddess of the Grass Porridge Cult showed up.

-The Grass Porridge Cult is a religion. A religion with a real goddess!

Seo-yoon's face had never been revealed in the past.

Her appearance on the broadcast caused a huge uproar.

The men stayed up all night discussing it.

"A beauty that can't be believed."

"She is so impressive that I shed tears."

"The eyes, nose, mouth, forehead, eyebrows, jaw line and even the earlobe is perfect....."

"A national treasure, national treasure! A real person that deserves the protection designated to a national treasure."

"She must have a lot of points in the charm stat. This is an achievement only possible in Royal Road. But it is still a wonderful thing."

"I'm just thankful."

"Thank you."

"Merciful god."

"Ahhhh, I won't regret this even when I am an old man. Just seeing it has value."

The Grass Porridge Cult had looked through the female users but couldn't find anything until this moment.

"Let's celebrate tonight!"

"That's right! Let's make this an official holiday that will occur every year in the Arpen Kingdom!"

"What is the name of the holiday?"

"Of course it will be the day the goddess emerged!"

Chapter 5: [No Title]

“Yawn!”

Lee Hyun gave a huge yawn.

“I’m tired. I seem to be lacking vitamins. And I haven’t been eating meat these days.”

He had no time to rest due to the sculpting master quest and the war with the Haven Empire.

After exiting the capsule, he cleaned his house and did the laundry.

He was diligent in areas like housework.

“In the future, I need to verify the price fluctuations in Royal Road and look at the quests in hunting grounds. An analysis regarding the future of the Arpen Kingdom is required.”

Lee Hyun nodded while thinking.

He could understand why modern people liked hiking. It was because things always piled up like a mountain.

“I will just be happy to have my money grow.”

Lee Hyun turned on the television while eating rice.

Today was Sunday but it was broadcasting a story of the Versailles Continent.

In the past he had talked on the phone with Shin Hye-min and now he was watching her on the tv. There was a lot of valuable new information and unlike other stations, they were sympathetic to the Arpen Kingdom.

The corporation favoured him.

“This can be considered a virtue of South Korea. They are too tired to see objectively.”

The influence of the broadcasters on the public was absolute.

In order to raise taxes, he needed to maintain a favourable relationship with the stations.

One slip could lead to annexation.

“One of the 1,000 representatives of Royal Road, today we have the swordsman Bers-nim of Kensington.”

“Yes. Recently he defeated the Brakra Dungeon with some friends and posted the video in the Hall of Fame.”

“I heard it has great popularity.”

“The risk involved in the Brakra Dungeon is high and no one had explored to the end. The scene of the 5 people party exploring the dungeon and defeating the boss monster is a lot of fun. In the end 3 people died.”

“Is the video ready?”

“Of course. Now let’s watch it.”

Lee Hyun watched the video of the Brakra Dungeon hunt.

The way they hunted was very different.

Lee Hyun’s hunting style had gradually developed in Royal Road.

Unconditionally fast.

He sprinted at full speed while living his life.

Of course, it was also important to have the judgement of a leader. If he didn’t give some time for rest and relaxation then the expedition would be abandoned early on.

Fast and daring.

A lot of ordinary people wouldn’t be able to follow him.

A leader needed to bring out the full capabilities of their colleagues. Those who didn’t realize their own limits would be left behind.

In the end, the assassin whose name was revealed to be Seasoned Crab and Python were strong enough to hunt with him.

In the Brakra Dungeon exploration, Bers gave priority to safety.

He calmly analyzed the nature of the monsters and placed the magician,

thief, knight and archer. Every time a battle started, there would be definite roles and strategies.

Lee Hyun felt bored seeing such a perfectionist.

“I would have quickly defeated half of them.”

At least 1,000 dungeons in Royal Road had been explored.

There were daily large and small battles on the Versailles Continent.

Users would increase their level through common hunting, quests and war.

In the early days of Royal Road, they competed over who would get a higher level.

Higher levelled people were respected. Many famous people formed guilds and expanded their forces.

And after some time, the criteria of who was strong started becoming more diverse.

Those who succeeded in hunting monsters first or special quests was proof of strength.

An arms race started between border disputes and new powerhouses emerged.

Vocation skills and personal combat senses meant there was more meaning to becoming strong than levels.

Level was always important in Royal Road but the so called 1,000 representatives of Royal Road had special achievements.

Just like Lee Hyun.

“What extent have my skills reached now?”

Lee Hyun evaluated himself.

“I was the strongest while ruling the desert. However, that was limited to the quest.”

Nevertheless, he had reached the peak so it was easy to judge when

looking down.

Sadly, he was strong enough even if he over-rated himself.

“On the basis of the level or combat skills, there isn’t much difference since the time I fought Bardray in the Melbourne Mine.”

The quest had given him plenty of stats. The proficiency of his combat skills rose through the quest but the compensation was too small.

Swordsmanship had reached advanced level 5. When considering how hard it was to raise swordsmanship as a sculptor, it was a great achievement.

The proficiency of Radiant Sword and Sword-cloning also rose.

But that was the only good thing.

While Lee Hyun was busy with his secret sculpting technique quest, Bardray and the Hermes Guild were training.

They defeated other prestigious guilds, raised the Central Continent and gained a lot of level from dungeons.

Their skill proficiencies increased while hunting and they received stat points as rewards.

Their achievements grew steadily like Lee Hyun.

“They have become stronger. And I’ve lost quite a lot of levels and couldn’t raise my other skill proficiencies.”

Lee Hyun compared his strength to other users.

He fought with Bardray in the Melbourne Mine but that was just the start of the war.

It would be a desperate fight to subdue each other. Vitality, health and a variety of combat skills were required in a confrontation.

If he was at a disadvantage then he could use Sculptural Destruction to raise his combat stats.

It would consume art but it was necessary to compete with Bardray. He wouldn’t be pushed too badly early on.

Sculptural Destruction was important in a fight but his real skills couldn't be too weak.

“I also have Sculpture Life Bestowal and Great Disaster Nature Sculpting.”

Skills that had a huge penalty!

He didn't have the efficiency of a combat profession.

Lee Hyun had been struggling shoulder to shoulder with them but now he became relatively weaker due to the time consuming quest.

When looking at the 1,000 representatives of Royal Road, he couldn't feel absolutely confident. Their combat skills and expertise were overwhelming.

Weed just went shoulder to shoulder with them using his sculpting skills and nature.

“I'm lacking a lot in normal combat abilities. Sculpture Transformation also has its drawbacks.”

Sculpture Transformation gave him the characteristics of the body he changed into.

He could fly through the air or have the power of a huge race.

However, there could be advantages and disadvantages.

A chaos warrior's short range teleportation could be beneficial on the battlefield. He had used it with Hestiger to maximize his power during the battle for the Earth Palace.

The Hermes Guild and northern users had been shocked by Weed's combat capabilities.

Crossing the battlefield using teleportation while blowing away the enemies with his fighting abilities!

The huge achievement was possible because he took full advantage of his fire resistance.

Even his weapons fully supported him.

The Dragon Sword, Red Star.

The combination of the Red Star, chaos warrior and Hestiger exerted a huge amount of havoc.

“I can’t exert that combat power again. And it is always risky using the Red Star.”

The combat capabilities of a chaos warrior was limited Even if he continued using the risky Red Star, he didn’t have Hestiger at his disposal.

“The problem is in the future. Time Sculpting might be an absolute weapon. It is reassuring in many ways.”

The television had finished showing Bers’ adventure and now had two people talking.

“Defron-nim, how do you feel about the north defeating the Haven Empire?”

“The Hermes Guild’s armed cavalry. It could indeed be said that they were defeated. The Arpen Kingdom lost their palace but it was a trap they designed. Are they going to recover the occupied territories now?”

“Yes, it is just a single battle but the Haven Empire was defeated.”

“These are your opinions. However, that is just a teaser for the war. In fact, the Arpen Kingdom has managed to block them for now. But that won’t happen in the future. If their troops don’t increase then it will end.”

“The difference between the Haven Empire and the Arpen Kingdom is too severe. Comparing the military...won’t it be a problem if the Haven Empire constantly causes a war without any justification?”

“War is natural in Royal Road. If the Haven Empire rules the continent then there will be no more fights.”

A debate unfolded about the northern war.

Lee Hyun wasn’t impressed with any remarks about the Haven Empire.

“Well, everyone needs to make a living. There are no good or bad guys in the world.”

It was natural for their position to be like that.

If Bardray managed to invade the Arpen Kingdom then he would unify the rest of the continent.

“There is no need to create justification. Even at the expense of 1~2 villages.....”

But he didn't like that the Hermes Guild was threatening his rice bowl.

The debate lasted for a few minutes before stalling.

“I understand your criticism about the Hermes Guild. But there is value in a world ruled by the Hermes Guild. The Versailles Continent can't be won with just dialogue and negotiations.”

“But if the Hermes Guild can't stabilize their territory.....”

“There will be some problems in the process. The users might not understand but once the Hermes Guild rules the continent, there will be a leap forward in true development.”

The Hermes Guild trying to conquer the continent was due to the very nature of Royal Road. Therefore Lee Hyun watched without much inspiration.

“I should try the other channels or watch the news.”

Then the host Oh Joo-wan temporarily stopped the discussion.

“I will make an important announcement. I just received news that the Hermes Guild is working to stabilize the empire and have called a temporary truce with the Arpen Kingdom. This news came from a senior official in the Hermes Guild and there will be an official announcement after a while.”

A truce!

The war wasn't completely over but there would be a brief break in order to settle the internal matters.

The theme of the debate rapidly flowed towards the temporary truce with the north.

The damage to the Haven Empire must be worse than expected in order to leave the Arpen Kingdom alone for a while.

The evaluation of the experts was like a lion having their whiskers pulled out.

“Those guys won’t stand still in the future. They will use all types of despicable means. Even so, haven’t they given me some time?”

Lee Hyun thought for a moment before concluding it wasn’t a bad thing.

He had feared that additional troops would advance from the Haven Empire. Anyway, there was a brief gap for him to breathe.

But this was just the beginning of a cold war!

The experts participating in the discussion stated that the Haven Empire wouldn’t mobilize their army until the preparations were perfect. Instead, they launched all types of policies that would press on the Arpen Kingdom.

The Haven Empire would try to overwhelm and cause the Arpen Kingdom to decline with their economic power.

“The world is against me. It is difficult for a dictator to find peace.”

Lee Hyun wasn’t in a position to actively compete with them in the future.

The Haven Empire had declared a truce but that didn’t mean peace would last.

The Arpen Kingdom was a sharp thorn in the Haven Empire’s side and gave them the bitter taste of defeat so he never believed in peace in the first place.

“I need to restore my lost levels as much as possible and also raise Time Sculpting. I should wander around creating sculptures. Well, it will be a success either way.”

Lee Hyun was burning with motivation.

Time Sculpting and Sculpting Master!

Now he could accomplish those goals.

He was familiar with working hard.

Take one step and shovel endlessly. Eventually he would obtain huge achievements.

In addition, Lee Hyun had a great talent in using tricks to overcome difficulties.



“Did you see it?”

“Of course.”

“Seriously awesome.”

Korea University’s virtual reality department.

The students who arrived before the lecture time sat in groups and talked about Royal Road.

Royal Road was always the topic of conversation in the virtual reality department.

“Did you hear? Our senior is Weed the God of War.”

“I know. I heard it at the freshmen welcoming party but it is a lie.”

“A lie? Based on what?”

“Common sense.”

“Everybody is saying it from the seniors to the professors.”

“It is just a joke on their juniors. There is no way such a legendary existence is our predecessor.”

“I’ve heard stories from the seniors about his school life.”

The seniors of the virtual reality department just laughed as they listened to the freshman’s words.

Lee Hyun. It was hard for them to believe without seeing Weed the God of War directly. The seniors wouldn’t have expected Weed the God of War to have such a personality.

‘In particular, we hunted with him.’

Lee Yoo-jung and Min So-ra’s eyes met in a significant gaze.

They hadn’t forgotten their experience hunting with Weed.

Melbourne Mine!

A great event where Weed and Bardray met for the first time.

It was a hot topic at the time.

Lee Yoo-jung, Min So-ra, Choi Sang-jun and Park Soon-jo!

They were the ones who took classes along with Lee Hyun.

The test that required hunting in Royal Road. They sat in a corner and listened as the freshman received assignments.

“Soon-jo, can you help me out?”

“Should...right now is hard.”

“Even if it is at a later date. You might be able to obtain something.”

“It is really difficult.”

Choi Sang-jun asked to borrow Park Soon-jo’s equipment.

It was hard now that the Black Lion Guild was in a difficult situation.

“Please give it back with no damage.”

“Nice! I’ll return it in 10 days!”

“I told you that it was 5 days.”

“You are a good friend. But how are you so strong as a thief?”

“That...it is a combat oriented character.”

“How did a thief become that strong?”

Choi Sang-jun was confused.

Normally a thief’s specialty was to steal things. It wasn’t a profession necessary in a hunting party.

If they ambushed a monster then the damage would be enormous but

typically their offensive power lagged behind. They were unmatched in the field of trap detection and dismantling.

“There is a considerable opportunity when looking at the monsters wandering around the dungeons. Every time I fight.....”

“One day I’ll catch up. Wait a bit.”

Choi Sang-jun diligently raised his level to 400 but Park Soon-jo was more skillful when it came to hunting monsters in dungeons.

Therefore it was tough for their skill proficiency and level to grow.

Between two people, the one who was the most respected was the one with a higher level. They played a fundamental role in a hunting party.

The easy truth!

Lee Yoo-jung who was listening to Choi Sang-jun and Park Soon-jo’s conversation suddenly said.

“But didn’t oppa get a leave of absence from school?”

Min So-ra immediately said.

“Who, Lee Hyun oppa?”

“Yes.”

“His leave of absence is to immerse himself in Royal Road.”

Choi Sang-jun interrupted the girls’ conversation.

“That hyung? I frequently saw him on television. He performed the final secret technique quest successfully. Kyah, the people who have appeared on broadcast. Well, Bardray is still the best idol.”

“Isn’t he doing well?”

“Of course not. Bardray will win the war.”

“There is no studying. I really envy him.”

Lee Yoo-jung’s arms fell on the table and she lay her head on it.

Those in the virtual reality department enjoyed Royal Road. The cutting edge technology meant that students were motivated to learn.

Apart from Royal Road, the subjects covered a vast area.

- Economics of Virtual Reality
- Mathematics for Urban Management
- Virtual Physics
- Biology of the New World
- Virtual Marine Experiment
- The Technological Applications of Physics Engines
- Birth of the Modern Magician
- Microscopic World and the Virtual World
- New Civilization and Philosophy
- Human and Virtual Environments
- Virtual Reality and Life
- Virtual Revolution, Ergonomics
- Crisis of Reality
- Structure and Function of the Brain

The subjects covered all sorts of technology and liberal arts.

Virtual reality could be called an expensive playground. It was the subject of great interest so the universities established competitive courses involving virtual reality.

Once Korea University established a virtual reality department, similar departments were formed at universities around the country.

Students were eager to take classes related to virtual reality so it was easy to fill the class roster.

It was understandable that the students majoring in this subject continued to grow.

Min So-ra sighed deeply.

“We are thoroughly buried in studying. I suppose we should just enjoy

oppa's spectacular adventures.”

Choi Sang-jun laughed.

“It will be different once that hyung returns to school. It won't be easy for him to obtain the credits.”

“Really?”

“Of course. Besides, we don't know how long the Arpen Kingdom can endure in Royal Road.”

Then Park Soon-jo spoke.

“That hyung, it is good for us that he isn't attending. Virtual reality can be understood from the papers.”

“.....”

“Weed the God of War is a character that has never been defeated in adventures.”

Weed the God of War!

He might have been slain by Bardray but it was a difficult environment and he never once lost on the scale of a war.

The battle of Morata against the northern lords as well as defeating the Haven Empire's marine corps in Jigolaths.

Everyone expected to hear about defeat regarding the war but he overcame it!

That's why the Royal Road users thought that Weed was incredible.

He overcame any disadvantage regardless of how small and large the troops were. He fiercely survived or came from behind in any environment.

“I wish that oppa will return to school.”

“Yes. It was fun when he attended school. These days I am only studying.”



The users gathered at the Earth Palace to stop the Haven Empire didn't leave.

“Merchants who desire money and are courageous should trade in dangerous areas. The value of achieving your dream is 3 gold a day.”

“Those who want to hunt in a dungeon, let's gather for a week of crazy hunting.”

“Huhu, hahahaha, hohohohok! I am Cockle Hunter from the Onion Porridge unit! Follow me!”

“Farmer seeking someone to guard the fences. Protect the grain from monsters and animals in the Hullio Mountains. If it goes well then I will offer you onion juice and melon for the rest of your life.”

Users accepted quests and participated in commerce as they ran towards a new frontier.

The merchants who heard about the Earth Palace reconstruction plan announced their intentions to invest.

“This is business. Now this land. We can build shacks on this spacious land and make a fortune.”

“People will gather together. There will also be trade. Once stores are established then people will come and we will make money. A merchant is a job that needs to eat every day.”

“Kidukkiduk, the food business is uncertain. Don't people have to eat? It is good to have the cooking skill. Put plenty of seasoning on cheap ingredients and they can be sold.”

The merchants bought land owned by the kingdom in order to construct buildings.

One of the most active professions in the Arpen Kingdom were the merchants as they made income through trading and investments.

“I should go.....”

“Do you want to join me in the construction of the Earth Palace?”

“That’s fine. Later I can proudly look at the palace.”

“I couldn’t participate last time because of an adventure so it worked out well.”

“True, have you brought a shovel and a sack?”

“Of course. A shovel and a sack are required in the north. I have 5. There is no room for loot in my backpack.”

950,000 users of the Arpen Kingdom instantly committed to working on the construction site.

They followed the instructions of the architects and cleaned up the remnants of the Earth Palace.

“Dig while moving in a straight line from here.”

“Until where?”

“Keep digging for 3 kilometres.”

“The Bamboo Shoots Porridge unit will do it. 2 hours should be plenty of time.”

“Even one and a half hours will suffice.”

The waterways, roads and boundaries were very easy to set for the construction of the building.

The architects were devoted to the reconstruction of the palace and only developed the basic outline for the Dawn City.

Squares and roads needed to be connected from the Royal Palace. Grand Buildings, sculptures, stores, markets and even guild offices were built.

There were a fierce competition between tenants and 300,000 shacks were completed in no time.

“Excellent, the real deal. Comparing it to Morata’s shacks is impossible. Does it make sense to separate the bedroom and living room in the shacks?”

“It doesn’t seem like rain will leak through. Even insects will find it hard.”

“A swimming pool in front of the shanty village. The amenities are amazing!”

Dawn City was different from Morata in many ways.

Morata had the basic shape of a village that grew due to settlers and tourists. On the other hand, the Dawn City would become the Arpen Kingdom's capital city and people recognized that the investments were endless.

Morata was the heart of the Arpen Kingdom and that hadn't changed even after the Earth Palace was built. Even those who didn't participate in the construction of the Earth Palace came from other areas to visit.

However, hundreds of thousands participated in the Dawn City so it was off to a powerful start.

And orcs also came with their families.

“Chwiik, there are many humans here. Let's go somewhere else.”

“Wait a minute, there is 6 months worth of work here, chwik chwik!”

The settling of the orcs.

There was a law in the Arpen Kingdom that orcs could only have 10 children. But the orcs grew so fast that they soon occupied a large portion of the population.

But the orc population couldn't increase indefinitely in a city.

The orcs were very independent from a young age. And it was the law of orcs to find a new habitat for their females and children.

The Haven Empire's army carefully moved towards Vargo Fortress.

Five corps, 1.5 million troops!

The Haven Empire mobilized troops on a huge scale.

This was also a scheme of the Hermes Guild's leaders.

The leaders had considered two aspects to their northern conquest plan.

The expedition that crossed the Poros River to the north were composed of elites. And in the east, small and medium sized combat units were organized by commanders with combat experience.

In the future, there would be rebellions in the north so it was a good opportunity to train the soldiers in the east.

But the first thing that annoyed the Haven Empire was the terrain.

“Aaaack!”

“My body has sunk down to my waist!”

They fell down cliffs or plunged into swamps hidden by leaves.

The Haven Empire gained a lot of experience fighting in the mountainous terrain. But it was their first time with the hilly areas surrounding Vargo Fortress.

“Why? These obstacles weren’t written on the map.”

“This looks like a map created by orcs.”

“It is an inferior product!”

“How did we get lost in the woods again?”

“We don’t have space to move the soldiers?”

“Yes. The trees are so dense that not even one person can pass.”

The ranger unit that the Haven Empire was so proud of finished their scouting. But in the meantime, the terrain changed and quite a considerable amount of obstacles sprang up.

This was because of the users at Vargo Fortress.

After the rangers passed, the farmers and landscapers raised the crops in the mountains.

“Haha, I will raise these man-eating thorns.”

“I’ll give plenty of fertilizer. It is very easy to raise because I don’t have to worry about pests.”

“The north also has very fertile land. This is the beginning of a good

harvest of thorns.”

The farmers led by Miretas worked on the crops through the mountains.

Stones piled up would become a fortress. The plants could delay and damage the army.

The vanguard of the army chopped the plants as they passed but if the roots were intact then they would revive. Unless they pulled up the roots, the main army would constantly receive damage “If there are any obstacles then burn them with chemicals!”

The commanders of the Haven Empire were anxious and wanted to increase the speed of the march.

They wanted to occupy Vargo Fortress. The overall level of the users were lower so they wanted to advance quickly.

“The leaders of the operation made a mistake. It would have been better to go to the plains.”

The forests and mountains weren't an obstacle to the rangers. Arrows flew towards the Haven Empire's army. Even a beginner could boast considerably skill in the forests and mountains.

Assassins appeared at night and got rid of the regular soldiers before quietly vanishing.

The Hermes Guild had the best rangers but they couldn't defend the rear and sides.

In the end, the Haven army had to burn the bushes and trees with chemicals.

Smoke blew for dozens of kilometres across the mountains.

The forest fire lasted for a few days. Although there were some traps, they completely disappeared in the fire.

“March on!”

The army marched through the charred remains and arrived at Vargo Fortress.

The high Vargo Fortress was designed to look down on invaders.

“It really is an enormous fortress.”

“Originally the walls were 10 metres and now they have tripled in size.”

“What should we do? It will be tough for the soldiers to climb so should we ask the magic unit?”

The tactic of using magic and archers against the northern users had been absolute. In contrast, this army had plenty of knights and rangers.

“It won’t be easy for the magic units to reach here. How many magicians are on our side?”

“8,000 people.”

“That isn’t a lot.”

Magic knights cost a lot of money.

It took a long training period and vast amounts of magic items being consumed.

The Haven Empire used an astronomical amount of funds for the war.

“A magic unit is useful in siege warfare. Have the soldiers rest sufficiently before we attack.”

“There is no damage.”

“Have the soldiers start climbing the walls.”

“Yes!”

The Haven Empire started their siege on Vargo Fortress.

The blacksmith users installed stone shields, ropes and ladders for the infantry. It was somewhat poor equipment but it was impossible to prepare for this due to the mountains blocking their view.

“Occupy the fortress!”

“Advance! Advance!”

“Wahhhh!”

200,000 soldiers of the Haven Empire simultaneously ran towards the walls.

Most of them were NPC soldiers but there were a mix of Hermes Guild users.

The Hermes Guild users enjoyed wars of conquest. Attacking enemy fortresses could give them considerable riches and achievements.

“Shoot!”

The archers hidden by Vargo Fortress started firing.

Unlike the human soldiers, there were many dwarves and elves.

The dwarves and elves mainly lived at Vargo Fortress. Due to the Haven Empire, they lost their homes and joined the Arpen Kingdom to participate in the war.

In addition, there were users waiting at Vargo Fortress.

“Kueok!”

“Shield properly!”

“Maintain a quick thrust!”

The Haven army ran through the storm of arrows. Some soldiers fell down but the elite soldiers kept moving.

“They are coming. It is starting now.”

“Grow the plants!”

The elves demonstrated their growth enhancing magic.

Seeds sown in the ground suddenly grew among the Haven Empire’s army.

The thorny vines planted by the northern farmers!

Some of the plants were like vampires and liked blood so the rare vines grew like it was a jungle.

5 meters, 10 meters, the thorny vines grew and grabbed the soldiers around them.

The Haven army was entangled in vines 100 metres from the walls.

“Now. Fire away!”

The arrows of the elves and users poured towards the Haven Empire.

The soldiers were hit by the arrows but didn't die.

The siege troops wore armour designed to minimize the damage of arrows. The soldiers were going to climb the walls so the priests and magicians placed blessings on them.

“Drop the rocks! Archers continued to shoot!”

Vargo Fortress' resistance!

The users desperately attacked the soldiers of the Haven Empire climbing up the walls.

The commander of the Haven army clicked his tongue as he looked at the walls.

“It is too high.”

“It will be quite tricky for the soldiers to capture them. It will be embarrassing as a commander if the army receives large damage.”

Soldiers kept falling from the high walls.

The soldiers were crowded in the vicinity of the walls so they kept receiving damage from the archers of Vargo Fortress.

There was no room for the soldiers of the Haven Empire to avoid the arrows so they died.

If this continued then morale and overall combat power would decrease.

“Concentrate the siege weapons on the gates!”

The Haven Empire started to use their siege weapons.

Huge pieces of stones started flying towards Vargo Fortress.

“Stones!”

“Don't avoid the fight. It is already decided that we will die here so don't back down!”

Vargo Fortress was a natural fortress but it gradually turned ragged under the attacks of the Haven Empire.

But the fortress had too much defenses.



There was one word attached to Vargo Fortress.

Orc, orc, orc, orc, orc, orc, orc and orc.

There was no end to the orcs.

“This is home, chwiik!”

“This is a fight. Our meal, chwik chwik!”

No one knew the orcs would reproduce so much in the north.

They reproduced among themselves and those from the Plains of Despair continued to be transplanted.

The northern merchants continued expanded the marine trade. Horse drawn carriages were often attacked by monsters so they preferred going by sailboat even if it was slower.

The trade routes with the east was particularly active.

After the Embinyu Church was destroyed, Rosenheim Kingdom and Brent Kingdom were restored.

Merchants carrying supplies along the trade route lured the orcs.

“There are many weapons and food in the north. The transport costs are free!”

Food, weapons and for free.

There was no need to bargain with the merchants.

Enough orcs started moving.

“We are happy with labour. Transportation and construction associated work is quite profitable. Even if it is only a couple of days, won’t it be able to feed your families?”

“Do you fight well? Of course, you are orcs. Orcs are famous for their

bravery. It is risky but the rewards are very big...wasn't there a famous orc called Karichwi?"

Mapan's business actively brought in the orcs.

A labour supply using the orcs.

The orcs actively took care of monsters in the north. They fought and established villages in the Arpen Kingdom.

Unfortunately, there weren't many human residents on the Northern Continent. The fall of the Niflheim Empire and the harsh weather meant the population plummeted.

This void was filled by the orcs.

Some people thought there would be ethnic conflicts between the orcs and the humans.

"Orcs. The orcs are aggressive and will eat humans."

"Our children are anxious about the orcs. Looking at the horrible faces of the orcs...I absolutely won't allow orcs in my house."

Many residents spoke like this.

In fact, many villagers anxious about the orcs became satisfied.

But there were many obstacles to the population expansion of the orcs.

The orc species were conscious of local events.

They didn't back down from any monsters invading their territory. The orcs would persist until they died.

And the remaining orcs would want revenge.

The settlements were being threatened so the orcs endlessly flocked to Vargo Fortress.

More orcs continued rushing to Vargo Fortress during the battle. Therefore, the fight for Vargo Fortress never seemed to end.

It continued even with the battle at the Earth Palace with the Haven Empire was over.

The orcs appeared at Vargo Fortress as well as tormented them across the mountains.

No matter how might the Haven Empire, they couldn't exhibit the same tactics as the plains. The siege weapons couldn't crack Vargo Fortress.

The long range arrows of the elves killed the technicians of the siege weapons.

The dwarves would repair any damage done to the fortress.

The undead even woke up at night.

"Huhuhuhu, fresh blood."

"My body, my body!"

This was the location of Barkhan's Immortal Legion.

The undead heard the large scale battle and woke up to fight the Haven Empire.

It was like a swarm of ants was covering the Haven Empire.

Those engaged in the siege at Vargo Fortress received new commands.

-The war will be briefly paused. Immediately head to the conquered areas in the north. It is important to prepare for the future conquest of the north.

A considerable amount of damage had been done at Vargo Fortress.

The troops were reduced by 100,000. 200,000 troops also died from the orcs filling the mountain ranges.

But they still had 1.2 million troops remaining.

They were engaged in a fierce fight at Vargo Fortress.

The complete destruction of the fortress and the orcs were their goal.

"Let's go to the occupied territories."

"Commander, we marched all the way here. But now we have to leave without even destroying the fortress?"

"It is nonsense. We just barely climbed up the mountains."

There were many unhappy about the decision to leave Vargo Fortress.

“They are orders from above. We have to unconditionally obey the commands of the Hermes Guild.”

“It can’t be helped since it was Commander Draka’s decision.”

Draka who led the army towards the Earth Palace at his own discretion.

The result was failure.

The responsibility for the defeat and disobeying orders meant his status changed to a general user.

Failure to gain achievements naturally resulted in strict punishment from the Hermes Guild.

“We suffered after coming to the north.”

“Commander-nim, is it good to stretch out forces over the conquered northern areas? Draka and all the users will have to defend the conquered territories.”

“That’s right. It won’t be easy and we can’t ignore them. Anyway, we need to do our duty. And defense suits me more than war.”

Alcard’s abilities were more suitable to defending fortresses.

He was the commander in charge of the 12 siege of Fort Odin and showed the best results. The elite troops of the Hermes Guild defended it for 4 days.

Then Bardray and the Royal Guards came and overwhelmed the enemies while the defenders were tired.

Alcard had a careful nature and was assigned a position to attack the north because he wouldn’t make any mistakes.

He had slowly marched and barely arrived in front of Vargo Fortress before receiving the command to return.

“Everyone retreat! We have to quickly return to the occupied areas!”

Alcard gave the command and the troops started marching.

The orcs watching the army retreat were puzzled.

“What are they doing? Chwiik!”

“There is more work to do. Just go, chwi chwik!”

An alliance composed of orcs, dwarves, elves and barbarians were waiting at Vargo Fortress. In particular, this area was very favourable for the Arpen Kingdom so the ratio of NPC residents was very high.

A lively commerce between species that actively advanced Vargo Fortress.

The orc users heard news that the Haven Empire at the Earth Palace lost and showed their yellowish teeth.

“Chwik! If so, chwik! Must, chwi chwi chwik, we, chwik, attack, chwi chwi chwiik!”

“They are turning around, chwi chwi chwik.”

“Chase after them, chwi chwik!”

“Chwiik, don't be impatient. It could be a trap, chwi chwik!”

“We are lacking too much. I would be glad if it is a trap, chwi chwik!”

“I don't care about dying, chwiii chwik!”

“We won't receive any damage, chiiik!”

The orc tribes that weren't afraid of being wiped out!

The orcs were brave warriors that constantly fought.

If there wasn't spacious land and a supply of food then there would be a limit on the population of the orcs. Any orcs afraid of combat would be incompetent.

That's why the orcs stormed at Alcard's retreating troops.

The Haven Empire were fiercely chased through the mountain and they lost 250,000 troops.

The orcs had great physical ability and grew quickly as a beginner.

Alcard showed his defense skills and managed to reduce the damage by

50,000. But his top priority was to reach the occupied areas.

250,000 troops were lost and 160,000 inevitably fell behind due to the excessive march.

Anyway, Alcard's army safely passed the mountains and arrived at the occupied areas. And the users who lost their lives at the Earth Palace joined, building a huge force.

Alcard was appointed as the governor of the occupied territories. Now he was ruling one fourth of the northern territory, a vast amount of land.



“Huhuhu, another classic has emerged. Hopefully I will have a chance for my song to spread through the continent.”

The bard Murray lightly tapped the beat with his fingers.

A melody rang out as the leaves started dancing.

Murray was a bard who wrote poems and sang songs.

The nature of the profession meant that bards considered adventurers as friends. Sometimes they could borrow the power of nature to produce a magical stage.

Murray was one of the best bards on the continent so naturally he watched the war.

A battle that absolutely couldn't be missed! All bards on the continent gathered to make a song of Weed's victory.

‘He should beat the Haven Empire.’

‘Weed has high fame on the continent.’

‘In order to make a popular song, the protagonist should be Weed.’

The feature of a bard was their songs. If their song became known then their fame and composition skills would increase.

They could easily enjoy the best fame through singing.

Just like a sculptor and paint, it was very beneficial for a bard to obtain

fame.

If their song became known then they could even give a nickname to people.

Roaming around the continent while singing, an attractive profession!

A popular profession that was good at making friends.

The characteristics of the job meant that they didn't settle in one place or join guilds. Recent classics were <Orc Karichwi's Nasal Voice>, <Unknown Hero's Future> and <Hymn of Grass Porridge>.

Ohh.

Today's I heard a chiik.

A strong nasal sound like there is a runny nose.

I saw an orc.

Earthworm like tendons, broad forehead and no hair.

Chwik, chwi chwi chwit, chwi chwi chwi chwit, chwit chwit chwit, chwiik!

Karichwi who has a nasty temper!

He talked to young and adult orcs.

Murray studied orcs in order to write his song.

The simple lyrics and accurate nasal sound that was difficult to produce made it popular among the orcs.

Murray was popular and could easily hold a conversation with the orcs. Listening to the song up close meant being sprayed by the runny nose so he needed to be careful.

"This is an opportunity to create a great song and I need to complete it faster than the others.

The battle of the Earth Palace was the goal.

Bards also experienced big battles.

Murray and the other bards had their battles in the squares and taverns

of the city.

It went without saying that the first song would have the advantage.

“Dawn City, Earth Palace. Well...something different will emerge. The Earth Palace collapsed but the reconstruction can make a new story. Dawn City has a role so it should have a significant amount of time. The future of the Arpen Kingdom...yes, the sun rising in the morning.”

He had a flash of inspiration.

‘The Arpen Kingdom will take a leap forward in the morning.’

The morning that would open a glorious future for the Arpen Kingdom.

Right now the preparation could be called the dark night. The Immortal Legion and war with the Haven Empire was just a guide for the new beginning.

“There is unease about the future. The future isn’t determined at the moment.”

Murray suddenly wondered.

Weed and the undeveloped areas of the north.

‘The morning after...the morning will come, causing the birds from Laviyas over the Arpen Kingdom to cry loudly. How far can Weed raise the Arpen Kingdom?’

He decided the title of the song.

<The Kingdom of the Rising Morning>

A song about the battle of the Haven Empire was too small. He would make a song about the overall evolution of the Arpen Kingdom.

Murray’s song would spread through the entire continent.

If that happened then the fame of the Arpen Kingdom and the self-esteem of the people living there would rise.

The Haven Empire imposed a decree on the continent.

-Block all trade and transportation to the Arpen Kingdom.

-Activities in the Northern Continent are prohibited. Things since as hunting, quests and travel are prohibited.

The beginning of the northern blockade.

The Haven Empire occupied some land in the north and dispatched troops to form checkpoints at the borders.

In addition, the Haven Empire blocked the movement of merchants and travellers.

A thorough isolation policy!

This was the Hermes Guild's plan to slow down the development of the Arpen Kingdom.

The merchants trading with the Central Continent would suffer great harm and the tourists visiting the Arpen Kingdom would be blocked.

The Arpen Kingdom defeated the Haven Empire but they suffered some damage.

Even the players starting Royal Road would seriously reconsider picking the Arpen Kingdom. They were worried about receiving disadvantages and discrimination.



“Kuaaaack!”

Seo-yoon leapt down from Wy-3's back the moment they arrived at Morata.

“Thank you. Here is a snack.”

She pulled out dried horse meat prepared in advance.

Chomp!

Wy-3's delicious meal!

Seo-yoon's eyes warmed as she watched Wy-3.

Weed's wyverns could fly long distances comfortably and their ability to glide was amazing. But among the wyverns, Wy-3 wasn't comfortable.

'Wy-3 is science.'

Wy-3's value as a perfect air transportation vehicle!

Seo-yoon entered the office.

Weed was concentrating on a sculpture when she came in. It wasn't easy to think he was a cool man devoted to the task but the reality was different.

"I have to finish this before it is too late."

-Please set the name of the new sculpture.

"Great King Leading the Arpen Kingdom."

-Great King Leading the Arpen Kingdom is correct?

"Heh. Well, it is an undeniable fact."

-Moonlight Sculpting Fine Piece! Great King Leading the Arpen Kingdom has been completed!

A work of the sculptor Weed that expresses the beauty of time and light.

The Arpen Kingdom situated in the north of the Versailles Continent.

This new kingdom recently had many difficulties but the buds are blooming and the harvest season is upcoming.

A statue of the revered King Weed will make the residents feel a sense of pride and will increase intimacy.

In particular, any residents with complaints will be happy when seeing this statue.

Artistic Value: A sculpture that surpasses Weed's limits.

6,700.

Special Options: Great King Leading the Arpen Kingdom will increase health and mana regeneration by 20% for a day.

The loyalty of the local residents will rise.

The effect of government buildings will increase by 2%.

National Fame +1.

The value of art produced in this region will increase.

Those with an art profession will have their charm increased by 38.

Charisma has permanently increased by 1.

The effect doesn't overlap with other sculptures.

Number of Moonlight Fine pieces completed: 12

-The skill proficiency of Sculpting has improved.

-The skill proficiency of Handicraft has improved.

-Fame has increased by 2,230.

- Perseverance has increased by 5.

-Time Sculpting has reached beginner level 8.

“Huhuhuhu, hahahahaha!”

His own sculpture!

Just like a plastic surgery beauty, there was a huge difference between his appearance and that of the sculpture.

The sleek jaw line and intelligent eyes were different.

Long legs, strong upper body and the faint sheen from the moonlight gave it a truly handsome appearance!

Weed meticulously searched the sculpture.

“It feels like looking in a mirror after just washing.”

The eyes, nose and mouth were the same but it gave off a seriously different feeling.

“Indeed...I could also look like this if I maintained myself well.”

Weed nodded.

A dangerous delusion caused by a harsh winter!

Seo-yoon nodded as she watched the scene.

The real Weed looked much better than the sculpture to her. She thought that Weed was better than other handsome men like celebrities and models.

A situation where wool covered her eyes.

Chapter 6: [No Title]

Weed made a sculpture of Seo-yoon in the office.

“Um, that arm over there should be a little higher.”

“Like this?”

He tested many different types of clothing for the sculpture of Seo-yoon.

“This is all for art, art.”

“Huh?”

“No, nothing.”

His pure artistic soul was climbing.

He tested several pieces of clothing such as a knight’s armour, magician’s robe and stage costumes for the dancers.

Seo-yoon was perfect whether she was covered up or wearing revealing clothes.

“Fashion completes the face and the body.”

A statue of a beautiful woman like Seo-yoon was a wonderful sight. His work would also create a new beauty.

He sculpted through the night. Seo-yoon didn’t show any signs of boredom as she followed Weed’s instructions well.

“These clothes? The skirt I’m wearing is too short.”

“Art should have constant attempts. It should be a noble challenge for beauty. Hesitation in art means that it will never develop.”

“Now I am drooling.”

“.....”

Any man would become sneaky with a girlfriend like Seo-yoon.

Many things could be read during the sculpting process. Not only was she beautiful but he could learn a little bit more about the subject while sculpting.

Weed was constantly updating the facial expressions and new parts of the body.

A long time ago, he had sculpted Seo-yoon smiling. He had thought it was a pity that her pretty face was stiff. Even now she didn't laugh loudly but gave soft smiles.

Then she was a beautiful diamond!

'She is prettier than she was in the past.'

If there was a god in the world then he gave all the beauty to her.

Seo-yoon had a much friendlier attitude towards him compared to the past. A natural appearance that made her more beautiful than usual.

'My sculpture needs to have that look. I need to show that side.'

She was impressed by his many sculptures. Eyes that looked at him with confidence and affection. He wanted that feeling to remain with the sculpture.

The sculpture that Weed completed was a work of art.

-Woman in Love.

-An Angel's Smile.

-Blazing Beauty.

-Eternal Beauty.

Moonlight sculpture fine pieces were created in succession.

"Tricky conditions are necessary to succeed as an artist."

Weed again gained enlightenment.

An extraordinary observation and judgement was required. It was a part of music, poetry, novels, plays, sculptures etc.

He always tried to create expensive pieces of art. An artist always felt greed towards their works. Passion and commitment for the work was required.

Having a pretty girlfriend was definitely convenient for his work. Weed

slashed at sculptures all day to raise his skill proficiency.



The next day.

Weed acted like a black king in his office.

“Investment, investment!”

Investing in the growth of the Arpen Kingdom in order to deal with the Haven Empire!

Currently the Arpen Kingdom had a budget of 70 million. It was a few months of tax income.

The tax revenue of the Arpen Kingdom was mainly put back in development and the Grand Buildings. Even so, the accumulated funds could be administered by the king.

70 million gold!

A huge amount for an individual but it wasn't much considering the current size of the Arpen Kingdom.

It would be completely drained investing in a military of 300,000 troops.

In fact, the trade and production of the Arpen Kingdom was expanding every day. Even with the special tax rate for residents, it was bringing in an astronomical amount.

If the taxes were raised as high as the Haven Empire then the profit would increase by more than 3 times.

But this was limited due to the free nature of the north.

Many users started in the Arpen Kingdom in order to take advantage of the low taxes. Merchants succeeded in risky trades due to the low tax rates and they opened up new trade routes.

Raising the taxes now would lose the crazy but important strength of the Arpen Kingdom.

“Well, the tax decreased due to the collapse of the Royal Palace but it

will rebound.”

The users and residents were increasing.

70 million gold was money that should be used very sparingly.

He could use all the money at once in a large investment but that wouldn't benefit the Arpen Kingdom.

“I need to invest in high productivity sectors. Usually it would be better to invest in the economy but I don't know how effective that will be.”

In order to increase the economic power of the kingdom, he should establish smithies, clear wasteland areas or expand agricultural areas. Active mine development was also one of the ways.

But Weed wanted the Arpen Kingdom to be larger.

Economic development was somewhat helpful but it would lead to an ambiguous amount of money.

“Besides, it is too subtle.”

Setting up smithies for weapons and armour production would make employment in the kingdom grow by leaps and bounds. Items such as swords and shields were essential in combat and continuously consumed so the business would never suffer any damages.

Usually capital would be steadily invested but there was currently a lot of weapons and armour from the Haven Empire. This was a temporary phenomenon but there was a need to consider where to spend money effectively.

Tax income was reduced and the Northern Continent was blocked so this meant the economic situation would become more difficult in the future.

He needed to make investments that had immediate results as well as long term benefits.

“In order to create a lively economy...increasing the products won't help.”

Weed started thinking.

He wasn't taught economics but common sense was enough.

There were many users in the north and this would increase further in the future. He needed to make sure products were consumed without running out. The blacksmiths and merchants knew how to do this themselves.

"There are many products on the market not being sold."

Rather than books or lectures, the merchants acquired knowledge through conversations at the market.

If products were selling particularly well on the market then there was no reason to stop. Merchants mainly imported low cost items in order to obtain a large profit from their customers.

The king building smithies everywhere but it wouldn't strengthen the overall production and economic strength of the kingdom. Currently there wasn't a problem of lacking goods so there was no reason for the king to intervene.

Although there were some benefits to Weed, the level of the kingdom meant he could let others produce the items.

The kingdom's economic power meant that basics could be filled in themselves. He needed to generate a higher value to the Arpen Kingdom.

"This is a kingdom of merchants so there is no need to intervene to make it prosperous....."

Weed's head continued to think. Then he suddenly thought about the merchants.

"A larger market and vigorous trade will make the Arpen Kingdom richer."

It was a difficult problem.

Weed considered the entire Arpen Kingdom. Right now it was insufficient. There were too many things.

The Arpen Kingdom was filled with beginners.

“The Earth Palace is broken. Along with Morata, Port Varna and Vargo Fortress, it is the heart of the Arpen Kingdom..... Adventurers roam all around the northern continent. It is the same for merchants. And they develop small villages in every corner of the kingdom. That’s how the current status was created despite the threat of monsters.”

Needless to say, the merchants had a large contribution. The novice users starting here was also a solid foundation for the development of the kingdom.

But he couldn’t always believe in them.

The Arpen Kingdom was vibrant and fun.

It was currently in a state of confusion due to the Haven Empire but it was getting better. The war with the Haven Empire had ended but their cities had advanced technology and were stable.

The northern blockade had just been launched so the novice users might prefer the Central Continent despite the popularity of the Arpen Kingdom.

The Haven Empire was unlikely to change their governing methods but there was no reason to live in the Arpen Kingdom unless there were improvements.

In the north, the only huge city was Morata.

In contrast, the Central Continent had so many big cities that it was hard to remember their names. However, the novice users liked living in Morata and the north.

Many novice users believed in an illusion when starting Royal Road.

“If I don’t change it quickly then my brand will decline.”

Weed strongly felt the need to maintain the competitiveness of the Arpen Kingdom. The current Arpen Kingdom was too narrow.

In fact, the territory was very wide but more of the areas were filled with monsters. There was a large distance between villages and people

were rarely around the frontier.

There were too few cities in the Arpen Kingdom. There was only Morata, Port Varna and Vargo Fortress.

Recently visitors also increased at Vent Castle and Mordred. Besides that, numerous villages were getting better. The orc fortresses were increasing day by day.

Nevertheless, the lives of people living in the big cities were lacking.

Various types of cities were required.

There were trade and commerce cities, mining towns, cities that prospered due to techniques that extracted resources from the land and cities that taught magic education.

It was necessary to establish tourist cities to attract travellers and settlers. There couldn't only be cities of arts and culture.

In order to rule the Arpen Kingdom more effectively, it was absolutely necessary to expand the jurisdiction of the big cities.

Each town and city would have lords that could look after domestic affairs like taxes, technology etc.

Vargo Fortress was the only one with a similar development to Morata.

“Famous areas where people will travel to. The Arpen Kingdom is a fledgling kingdom. Now it will be difficult for the lords to differentiate their villages.”

Grand Buildings would quickly cause a village to grow to the scale of a city. Although there were many travellers, the features of the city could end up deformed.

Morata ended up making the Arpen Kingdom. There were many advantages to have politics, economy, commerce, culture and technology focused on Morata.

“I need to connect roads between the cities.”

He decided to build 8 cities with Morata in the centre.

Of course, the construction of the new cities would depend on the river, plains and existing villages.

Important buildings needed to be built in the villages.

People were still lacking sufficient reason to leave Morata so more cities needed to be built in the Arpen Kingdom.

Users were still starting in the north so now was the perfect time to widen the narrow feel of Morata. Adventurers and merchants could wander around without risk.

He was certain now.

The Arpen Kingdom had reached its limit because of Morata.

“We need to expand Ibellin Castle in the east. The necessary buildings are required in order to make it easier for beginners.”

Ibellin Castle was close to Kruger Harbour.

Kruger Castle was to the east of Rupoi Plains. Merchants pulled carriages there and it had a good amount of travellers.

It would be good if adventurers and novice users used Ibellin Castle as a base for their activities.

It was a good opportunity for people to settle in places other than Morata.

Weed decided to invest 15.84 million gold in Ibellin Castle.

Users would feel offended if he only invested half-heartedly.

Commercial buildings such as grocery stores, guild offices, training centres for knights and magic guilds. There was a construction request for a branch of the Freya Church and new residential areas were formed.

Fortunately, it was a very safe area so there was no need to build walls around the old castle.

“The Harsel Mountains area needs to be explored. Lots of resources are required in order to develop the kingdom.”

A small river flowed from Vent Castle to the Harsel Mountains.

He decided to develop Iptun Village at the entrance to the mountain area.

Buildings associated with mining and construction facilities were created. A small harbour was created at the river. There were frequent invasions from monsters so he ordered walls and rangers to be recruited.

If Iptun Village explored and developed the Harsel Mountains area then it would be helpful to the Arpen Kingdom's economic power.

The territory could produce a considerable value.

If many high level users were active in Iptun Village and the Harsel Mountains then monsters would stop overflowing out of the mountains. This would have a positive impact on the Arpen Kingdom's security.

Parties in the area wouldn't need to return to Morata and Vargo Fortress.

"I can't miss developing the Valley of Death and the east sea. I need to invite them for location hunting and production."

The mind of a corrupted king!

"If the Harsel Mountains become more secure then I can create a unique tourist city."

Of course, it was instant death if there was a monster ambush. It was an advantage that might work out well.

Weed's head started rotating at full speed.

The development of a kingdom was bound to have complex macroeconomics. This was Weed's way of living.

Extraordinary vision and smell!

A ghost like ability to see and smell money.

The dark smell of money was coming from the Arpen Kingdom!

"Some islands recently discovered to the east should be developed."

Small fishing villages were found by sailors.

After the fall of the Niflheim Empire, some settlers left for the sea.

Necessary buildings, ship repair yards and trade buildings were built.

Now it was only small villages but a wide sea region could be created. If there was a trade route with the Brent and Rosenheim Kingdom then there would be long term economic benefits.

“Huhuhu, it is difficult to develop these islands due to the heavy trades but I can set up 1~2 free trade zones.”

Precisely, pirate islands!

The life of a pirate was fun.

An endless horizon!

Numerous fish swamp in the sea that could be caught with a fishing rod.

There was also a high traffic trade route at sea so looting merchants was very profitable. Of course, Weed knew very well the happiness of being a pirate.

“There is too much to develop. Huge value industries are everywhere.”

Weed once again reflected.

It really was hard when he thought about it. Looking back at his past, there was areas he regretted not investing in. Opening his eyes in the morning every day and finding it difficult to make money. Burying money in the ground, he couldn't think of a honest life!

Weed thought it was a really undesirable life.

“I need to spread rumours about the top 10 attractions of the Arpen Kingdom. Pilgrimage places for the Grass Porridge Cult.”

He also needed to secretly negotiate with Mapan for the opening of overpriced stores!

“It is difficult to enjoy the peace if Morata isn't secure. He needed to spend money on the kingdom in order to stop it from coming to an end. Earning money is very hard and I need to harvest the taxes.”

The Grass Porridge Cult will stand up every time the Arpen Kingdom fell into a crisis.

Weed's tongue started slowing creeping out as he concentrated on the internal affairs.

He could already taste the money.



The live adventures of the Crimson Wings Guild!

Interest had fallen because of the war but the ratings still reached 23%.

-One of the sacred obligations as a giant is to sustain the world.
Humans, do you sincerely want death?

Teros only had 10 people left in his group. They had the funds to hire NPC mercenaries but almost none of them survived.

People overflowing with adrenaline could randomly die.

The sight of the Crimson Wings Guild struggling in the dungeon was a very popular live show. And finally, they met a sleeping giant.

Teros nodded.

“I want to die. I willingly risked death to come here.”

-Excellent. Having the courage to continue through your fear. Humans, do you have the courage to rectify a wrong despite the dangers to your life?

“This.”

Gale met Mako's eyes.

Gale: I thought this was the end.....

Mako: It must be refused. Our power is already limited.

A S-class difficulty was the hardest level of quest.

They had wandered around and barely came to the last dungeon. The colleagues Pulain and Bastien had been sacrificed in order to reach this point.

Reaching this far in a S-class difficulty quest was already a great success. Only Weed the God of War would succeed in this type of unexpected quest.

But now the giant was giving them another quest.

Teros thought for a moment before bowing his head to his colleagues.

Teros: Let's not back down here.

Psyche: That's not what I wanted to hear. We've done enough.

Gale: Captain, let's give it up. Our power won't be able to break through.

Teros: However, won't we miss too much? The quest was a little difficult but we got nothing. Didn't we want to become famous and respected on the continent again? Shouldn't we show our power? The stupid things we did will forever remain in the memory of the people if we retreat.

Mako: Captain.....

Teros: The giant's words make sense. We are different from the past. There is only one life that we have to walk. I will regret now seeing it through to the end.

His colleagues no longer opposed after hearing Teros' words.

A quest was a quest. Higher compensation would be received the more difficult it was.

Novices wanted money, equipment, fame and later stats from the quests. Of course, quests that required leaving the area would take a long time.

It was common sense that chain quests would become popular.

Famous quest items could be traded for expensive prices.

This was different from the adventures and quests the Crimson Wings Guild received in the past.

They didn't know how to proceed forward in the future or if they could

overcome the dangerous situation. There was a possibility of success but they were more likely to fail.

Gale: It isn't a big deal so let's do it. Anyway, we only have one life so there is no need to hesitate.

Mako: Let's not feel any regret and commit to it.

Teros said to the giant.

"We have the courage."



"Rough men like the sand, I greet the Pugnak Warriors."

"It has been a long time since the Pallos Empire disappeared. The Pugnak Warriors recognize that you are on the path of the saviour."

"Come out unharmed from the Desert of Tranquility Then the desert tribes can't ignore your noble valour."

Unring, Ben and Elliks of Earth Shadow needed to gain the respect of the desert tribe. Earth Shadow was doing a quest associated with the Desert Emperor quest.

"It is much more rewarding than the work involving the Embinyu Church."

"It is fortunate that they haven't forgotten the past."

"It is good that it isn't vague."

This time they had less anxiety while performing the request.

The leading adventurer group in Royal Road!

However, they wasted a great deal of precious time on an outlandish adventure. There were many worries due to the risk of not knowing the results of the adventure.

The so-called continent quest would get different results depending on good and evil. A typical example was the Embinyu Church waking up earlier!

This time, they expected good results for the Desert Emperor quest.

The resurrection of the Desert Emperor in the harsh and desolate desert! A desert warrior would become Weed's heir.

Unring became anxious in the middle.

"What if the heir of the Desert Emperor is a bad person?"

"What do you mean?"

"For instance, what if they conquer the Central Continent after the desert? It might be their destiny if they are the Great Emperor's descendant."

"That makes sense."

Earth Shadow started to worry. And 10 minutes later, they came to a conclusion.

"After the southern desert, they will invade the principalities and free trade zones. That is the land of the Haven Empire so we don't need to get involved."

"Yes, the Hermes Guild will take care of those guys."

"Well, look at these nasty bastards."

"They are the same."

The adventurers didn't always act independently and some joined the prestigious guilds.

There were many famous adventurers on the Versailles Continent affiliated with the Hermes Guild. They gained information about quests and even took it by force. It also gave them the exclusive rights to excavate treasure at certain locations.

The prestigious guilds even reported in advance special treasures and quests in their territory. If the adventure was a success then they needed to pay half the excavation profit.

They would find public information or intercept new quests. The adventurers were helpless against the special forces of the guild.

Weed was respected enough not to be exploited by the prestigious guilds.

The free adventurers struggled because of them and suffered countless hardships. The Hermes Guild was just as bad as the other prestigious guilds and it became worse after the Haven Empire was founded.

The official policy of the Hermes Guild towards the adventurers changed. Lafaye and the leaders found that the activities of the adventurers benefited the Haven Empire.

But the lords that ruled the territories were different. If there was hidden treasure in the land they ruled or a wonderful hunting ground then a fee needed to be paid.

Every adventurer had to pay the lords substantial taxes.

The adventurers that succeeded in their territory were threatened by the military unless they handed over a large amount of the profit. That's why there was a small number of adventurers compared to other professions.

Earth Shadow continued the quest without worrying about the consequences.



Weed decided to wait and see the developments of the Arpen Kingdom after his intervention.

“I just need to hope that it goes well.”

Investments worth 70 million gold.

He placed the 4.93 million gold obtained from selling the loot into the treasury.

Ddiring!

-King Weed has invested his personal fortune in the kingdom.

Leading the country and its people with the virtue of nobility. A very good deed has been done by the noble king.

The security of Morata and the surrounding areas will increase by 3.

-Honour has increased by 1.

Fame has increased by 493.

-The title 'Honourable King of Kings' has been acquired.

It is very difficult for a king to receive the respect of the people.

High security, economic developments and maintenance of facilities are required to maintain the long-term loyalty of the residents.

Actively taking care of the livelihood of the residents or leading soldiers in a war can grant the king an honourable title.

The intimacy with the residents and fame will help the loyalty remain high.

It isn't easy since the residents would blame any incompetence on the ruler.

If good things happen within the kingdom then the king's reputation will increase sharply.

"Sob!"

He put his individual money to develop the kingdom.

He invested that money with a sad heart!

"Another useless title. This is really the worst."

Weed still believed in a bright future.

"For the moment, I've defeated the invasion of the Haven Empire. I have a large margin even if they decide to conquer us later. Until then, I will work diligently to gain more taxes."

Investments made with the thought of recovery!

This could be described as the basis of investments in the modern world. It was easy to invest in some areas. But in the end, not all the money invested could be recovered.

After his intervention, Weed left the castle with Seo-yoon.

"There is a lot of work to do from now on."

Hunting, simple quests and sculpting! He couldn't neglect raising his personal capabilities.

The golden age where he founded the Pallos Empire had passed and the reality was that his level; was lower than most of the Hermes Guild members. But he had high stats and a new skill so there were lots of opportunities. If he raised Time Sculpting a few more levels then a new world would open.

“Go.”

“Yes.”

Weed defeated dungeons with Seo-yoon and carved sculptures.

He started with dungeons near Morata. The bulletin boards of Royal Road and the Dark Gamers forum meant he knew information about extremely demanding dungeons.

Pelka Wilderness.

Going at night is very dangerous.

Hunt the pelka that will come through the ground.

Handle these guys and enter the dungeon through the hole. The dungeon doesn't have a separate entrance and exit.

It is possible to obtain mana stones if the pelka are wiped out. Recently the pelka horns, leather and teeth can be sold at high prices as raw materials for fire magic.

The recommended hunting level is 440.

“We should be enough.”

“Wipe them out quickly.”

“Leather, horns and teeth can be sold expensively...I am reluctant but I will use them to create sculptures.”

Weed and Seo-yoon defeated the dungeon at the Pelka Wilderness.

Even if his level was lower than the recommended hunting level, Weed was able to endure it. His actual combat ability was excellent so he could

overcome all types of adversity.

Seo-yoon's level was also high and was appropriate for the hunting ground.

Calling Death Knight Van Hawk, calling the Vampire Lord Torido!"

"You called, Master."

"Incompetent bastards! You came out so prove your worth."

"Understood."

Van Hawk and Torido were reliable and significantly helped in the hunt.

It would be annoying hunting without those two. Waiting for the recovery time after fighting monsters was a significant disadvantage.

Weed optimized his breaks with the best hunting time. And he always sculpted during the break!

That's why it was good in many ways to have Van Hawk and Torido along on the hunt.

Van Hawk had high health and good attack skills as a death knight. Torido was useful because he could use his vampire skills to brainwash monsters with low intelligence.

And he even generously called the sculptural lifeforms when the monsters were very large.

"Summon Sculpture!"

Bahamorg, Yellowy, Goldman, Seville and Cerberus were summoned when needed.

"Ummoooooo."

"It is hard hunting so don't complain. Crush them!"

Yellowy who required a minimum of 2 copper to 5 silver to boss around was the best.

In the case of priests, he rented them from the Freya Church and Church of Lugh.

Alveron was a precious talent but needed a lot of contribution points. However, the ordinary (?) senior priests could contribute a lot and were only moderately expensive.

The priests would become stronger through hunting with Weed and this was a good thing for the church. If Weed brought back priests that levelled up then he could get back some of his contribution points.

As king of the Arpen Kingdom, he needed to contribute to the religious orders on a daily schedule. If the king made a donation then the contribution would slightly accumulate every time.

If the contribution piled up then the faith of the residents of the Arpen Kingdom towards the religion would rise!

Weed employed 2~3 priests for every hunt.

“G-god! This hardship.....”

“U-ugh!”

The priests that somehow survived the speed of the hunt clearly became stronger.

Chapter 7: [No Title]

Pale, Irene, Romuna and his other colleagues didn't call often. They weren't like Weed and found it difficult to focus a lot of their time during the day on Royal Road.

Furthermore, Weed was on an intensive hunt so he needed to quickly move to another hunting ground if necessary.

After defeating the boss monsters in a dungeon, he would immediately move on to hunt somewhere else.

If there were many people in the group then it would become more difficult.

In addition, his original party needed to consent to such painful hunting in advance.

Pale grabbed his hands with delight.

"Really? Thank you, Weed-nim!"

"You've struggled a lot in the meantime so rest for the moment."

"I had been feeling like I was falling down a long, dark tunnel towards the bottom of hell. I won't forget this care and grace."

"I had forgotten that an archer is a very useful profession when hunting."

"....."

"I will use you well at a later date. Maylon-nim, is that okay?"

"Of course. Pale-nim, tell me about it when you come back."

"Cough!"

Pale was effectively attacked by Maylon.

The rest of the party willingly agreed with it.

Weed had an awkward conversation with Hwaryeong again.

They were friends in Royal Road but she had opened up her heart to

him. But that died after hearing that Seo-yoon was living next door.

Hwaryeong had a cool personality and wasn't going to quarrel with another woman.

"Seo-yoon? Well, isn't Weed-nim attractive? That charm is what attracted me."

"That's right."

And Seo-yoon nodded like it was natural.

"I'm not giving up. He will come back."

"I...won't let go."

Pale and Zephyr were unable to speak in front of the girls.

"The world is coming to an end."

"This may already be hell."

"Weed-nim being called a good and wise king....."

"I'm sure this is the bottom of hell."

Mapan was with his girlfriend Gamong.

Mapan had slightly overpriced groceries while Gamong sold them for a cheaper price. There were rumours that Mapan was unscrupulous but his girlfriend was a merchant.

Weed and his activities in the territory of the Arpen Kingdom was due to the increase of users with information. There was considerable talk of the north, dungeon location and terrain analysis on the information forums.

Weed wanted dungeons discovered for the first time in order to get the double experience! It was essential for fast growth but there were disadvantages.

Gaining experience quickly wouldn't increase the combat skill proficiency as much. Weed had a variety of skill proficiencies, including swordsmanship that needed to grow.

If he didn't take advantage of Sculptural Destruction while hunting then he would be much weaker than Seo-yoon.

“W-Weed-nim.”

“Weed-nim came to this dungeon!”

“Kyaaaak!”

An underground dungeon consisted of several layers with the weakest monsters at the entrance and on the 1st floor. Therefore, there were a large number of users present.

The migration of high level users in the north.

The people who noticed Weed hunting were like a fan club.

Of course, Weed could change his appearance with Sculpture Transformation but that meant he couldn't create sculptures on his break. It was also hard with the appearance of the Goddess' Knight Armour, Van Hawk, Torido and Yellowy.

Weed watched the people flocking with a frown.

“Being a celebrity is tiring. My personality and appearance lures in the people like a charm.”

“.....”

A level that he actually enjoyed!

The level of the users meant they wouldn't interfere with the hunt. It was also extremely rare to find those who could keep up with Weed and Seo-yoon's pace.

“Excuse me, this might be unreasonable but Weed-nim is the best sculptor on the continent. A gift for my wife and daughter.....”

One of the high level users came up to him and asked. His entire body was covered with equipment made of special materials that granted divine magic.

“If I give you these winged boots then can you please make me a sculpture?”

Snap!

“You came to the right place.”

The high level users that got close commissioned sculptures.

The sculptures that Weed made in order to raise skill proficiency would be disposed of later through Mapan. He had very high popularity as a sculptor so it was easy to dispose of his products.

But this type of customized products meant he could sell it at an overpriced value.

“Isn’t this the best material? I won’t give you a cheap product.”

“Yes.”

“The size is small so it is difficult.....”

“Yes.”

“Hmm hmm, fine trimming and smoothing out the sculpture will cause an additional fee.”

“Please take care of it.”

He horribly increased the rates every time!

“But I have no more gold.”

“Well, it is unfortunate but those shoulder pads should be enough.....”

Weed was able to make extra income with his sculptures.

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

Rebels sweeping through the Haven Empire!

-Kallamore Liberation Front.

-Tullen Heroes.

-Remnants of the Aidern Kingdom.

-Norton Nobles.

-Luka River’s Resistance Army.

Ever since that day, the confusion in the Haven Empire was getting out

of control.

“They were given an opportunity. Faster than I thought...even so, they won't be able to overcome our power.”

Lafaye gave a command to the Imperial Army.

“Have the troops stationed in big cities and fortresses to quickly overcome the rebels emerging.”

The users of the Hermes Guild were on high alert. The troops stationed at important fortresses spread to nearby areas to stop the rebellions.

The ones in the Central Continent who lost to the Haven Empire! In the past, the continent was split between the prestigious guilds so they can still gain an advantage even if their power wasn't as strong.

The small rebel uprisings by the residents were quickly swept up by the Hermes Guild users. But the battles took place everywhere including the outskirts of the city, the plains, the market and the government offices.

“There are serious fires in the city.”

“Damn! It was wrong to mobilize the magicians.”

“The fire is continuing to spread through the wooden buildings. The wind is blowing it out of control.”

“We have to give up the city. If it becomes a lump of ash then it can't be used as a rebel base.”

The city of Peites with a long history disappeared due to fire during the fight with the rebels.

It had been captured by the Embinyu Church but flourished due to Weed's adventure. But now all traces of it were gone due to fire.

“Did you hear? The Imperial Army set a city on fire in order to burn us down.”

“Children and adults were all burned.”

“Cruel bastards. Those guys are the devil.”

Rumours spread like fire about the Haven Empire.

It was natural since the residents of the occupied territories already disliked the Haven Empire. The exploitation and high taxes meant that rebels continued to rise in the occupied territories.

Lafaye was alert and anxious as his worries became a reality.

“Cavalry, enter the city.”

“Sweep up the rebels tonight and then move onto the next area.”

Nevertheless, the military of the Haven Empire was powerful. They kept the big cities and fortresses and wiped up the rebels in the area. The rebels were defeated by the elite troops of the Haven Empire.

“Help us. If you lost everything then fight against the Haven Empire.”

“There isn’t much time left. Now the dream of the Nest Kingdom resurrecting has disappeared.”

The resistance forces and general users who received quests were defeated by the might Haven Empire.

“We’re not going to.....”

“The Hermes Guild is terribly strong. I’m sick of it, sick.”

The desperate users of the Central Continent quickly mobilized.

But things didn’t go as Lafaye intended in various parts of the empire.

Despite the enormous grain production of the Haven Empire, there were some areas that were starving. The smooth transportation of agricultural products to some regions was impossible due to rebels or bandits.

The army of the Haven Empire provided food supplies to those areas.

“Food aid? In terms of money, it will cost more than 1 million gold.....”

“Lord-nim, what should we do? There are hungry residents waiting.”

“Why are you asking? Store it in the warehouse. Later when there is a food shortage, we can sell it at a higher price. Place guards at the warehouse.”

“Yes!”

The lords only cared about themselves rather than supporting the residents. This was an unofficial decision but there wasn't also a need to make the cities and villages rich and powerful.

It took a long time to develop technology and expand commercial policies.

The lords of the Central Continent were those who obtained a large contribution in war. They squeezed the residents they ruled and bribed the guards. It would be better if those with war achievements would let the land recover.

-Lower the taxes and improve the welfare of the people.

If the lords improve the lives of the residents then rebellions won't occur.

As part of Lafaye's post-war recovery plans, he announced an economic reconstruction plan and commercial support plans for the conquered regions.

Magic research, technological development, road construction, urban reconstruction and restoring attractions were promoted.

An astronomical amount of money of the Central Continent were spent. More than one third of the Haven Empire's treasury were invested.

If the economy and lifestyle in the Central Continent improved then there was no reason for rebels or for people to leave for the north. Over time, the northern users would start coming over to the Central Continent.

The economic policy game!

Lowering the tax rate would gather the users and residents as well as lowering the transaction goods tax throughout the empire.

However, some lords pretended to reluctantly accept this.

If the taxes were lowered then their income would decrease. There was no reason for them to do so. They took care of themselves even when there were rebels in the area.

The rebels were a good opportunity to train the soldiers. If there was a complete victory then security would improve.

But it was just in that area as the adjacent regions would have their security worsen.

In the hands of some lords, the rebellion would grow larger and reach out to the centre. Once the rebels looted the armour and supplies, they would enter the mountains and it would take a long time to suppress them.

If they weren't completely suppressed then it would have adverse effects on peace and security and would affect the military in various ways.



Lafaye launched a covert operation against the Arpen Kingdom.

“The Haven Empire has been damaged so there is a need to twist up the Arpen Kingdom. The current situation might have calmed down but we will show them the difference once we conquer them.”

The fact that Weed was investing in several cities in the Arpen Kingdom was reported to Lafaye. He decided to deal with the situation.

Weed was a mere adventurer so that didn't mean he had the qualities of a ruler.

A success story of a person who build Morata from the ground up.

Good planning and political power needed to be demonstrated. It was impossible with just coincidence or luck.

“We must invest in the occupied territories of the north. If the development is faster than the Arpen Kingdom then the residents might move.”

The Haven Empire had conquered a quarter of the north.

The Arpen Kingdom was still lacking in many things. If the Haven Empire developed their cities then the residents would increase dramatically. NPC residents and even users wanted a good place to live.

“A quarter of the north. It will be a brilliant bridge to conquering the continent.”

If the Haven Empire’s occupied territories had a dazzling development then the Arpen Kingdom would collapse in the future.

The governor created the finest buildings and made free trade cities.

The north had plenty of advantages over the Central Continent.

Spacious and fertile land for grain production and there were many opportunities for mine development. If they increased the population of the occupied territories then a large economic power could be generated.

Trading between the Central Continent and Northern Continent would be a mutual benefit.

His original plan was reconstruction after destroying the north but changing that plan wasn’t a bad idea.

“Urgently eating up rice cakes. If everything goes well then this might lead to a better result.”

In the future, the north would play a large role in the Haven Empire.

“More support needs to be given to the northern lords. In the future, new cities and land will be handed to the lords.”

Ruling positions would be handed out to members of the Hermes Guild who would develop the land.

There were an incredible number of lords on the Versailles Continent. After hearing Lafaye’s northern development plan, a great deal of funds were dedicated to the lords.

Lafaye didn’t think of competing directly with Weed.

The Hermes Guild had a lot of swords that they could use. And the most powerful sword called Bardray was already prepared.

However, it was quite fun to compete with Weed when it came to the development of a kingdom. The Arpen Kingdom that Weed painfully built up would be smashed.

“This is a little lacking. But it is good enough to win by trampling on him.”

Lafaye felt quite bright because he preferred this strategy. Insidious ploys could sometimes lead to large effects.

In order to draw a big picture, behind the scenes work was essential.

He called Steer who was in charge of the Hermes Guild’s information network.

“Steer-nim.”

“Yes.”

“How many people do you have working in the north?”

“Hestiger appeared in the war out of the blue...the impact is strong so approximately 1,000 people.”

“Good. Even if it might seem useless, it might play a large role on the decisive day.”

“I think so as well.”

Despite the rebels, the eyes of the Hermes Guild didn’t leave the north. Even traitors in the north could weaken it.

Lafaye had several schemes in the last war that couldn’t be triggered properly because of the quick destruction. He hasn’t expected Hestiger to appear and for the Earth Palace to collapse.

“How about the assassination of Weed?”

“It is quite difficult to keep track of him for the assassination. He is moving so quickly that it is hard to find his traces.”

“I heard stories that he rides the wyverns. What about after he enters the dungeon?”

“His speed is faster in the dungeon. And they are famous dungeons in the north so there are many users.....”

“We will be ridiculed if rumours spread that the Hermes Guild is trying assassination. Don’t act blatantly. The chance will come sooner or later.

Do it secretly.”

“We have reinforcements prepared for the assassination squads.”

They wanted to interfere with and weaken Weed.

It was highly likely that Weed would master sculpting and other production techniques. Even dying once would cause a huge loss in skill proficiency.

The reason why the Hermes Guild cared was because of the final sculpting technique. Weed obviously acquired the skill but didn't use it in the war for some reason.

In the next war, Weed was likely to use it against Bardray so they wanted to check the identity of the skill.

‘Awkward and uncomfortable. It won't be difficult to cope with if we know it in advance. Perhaps it is a complicated skill that will release a concentrated attack to kill the other person. But 1 person can't change a war.’

Lafaye issued a new instruction to them.

“Have you identified Weed's colleagues?”

“Of course. There are the colleagues he has been hunting with since his novice days and the 500 Muksabal Knights.”

“I know that there are some celebrities.....”

“Maylon. A talk show host on the Versailles Continent. But she didn't participate in the war. As a broadcast official, she must appear neutral. And the other one is a user called Hwaryeong. Singer Jung Hyo-rin ssi. A celebrity well known in reality and she has many admirers in Royal Road.”

Hwaryeong constantly danced in the main hall of Morata.

Brilliant performances filled with light, fire, water droplets or ice flowers that seemed like a solo concert.

Naturally she had explosive popularity!

It was common to have several singers perform on the stage. But none of them could beat the quality of Hwaryeong's performances.

"Does she have a close relationship with Weed?"

"It is significant. She helps him whenever there is an adventure or war."

"Buying her to our side is absolutely impossible?"

"That....."

Well known celebrities were Weed's colleagues.

But there was no end to human greed. Even a close friend would betray someone if the price was right. Especially with a person like Weed who cast a large shadow.

There were sure to be colleagues jealous of Weed's fame and achievements.

They would turn their back on Weed if given compensation by the Hermes Guild.

"His colleagues and the Muksabal Knights. I think gaining some of them isn't impossible. I will contact them. To what extent can I offer?"

"The position of lord for one of the occupied territories and 1 year of financial support. The Muksabal Knights pursue strength so offer them skills and a mercenary position. The only ones left are Maylon and Hwaryeong? Give them the position of lord in any area of the Central Continent they desire. It will be worth it."



Weed felt it while hunting in the Arpen Kingdom.

"This is really poor. There are no famous specialties and the residents don't have good careers. It is hard to even find a grocery store."

Apart from Morata and several villages, the northwest frontier was completely untouched by human hands.

There was an infinite spread of lush forests, wide fields and swamps that reached up to his ankle.

Thousands of goats and bison lived near the river.

Occasionally merchants moving with carriages protected by mercenaries could be seen. There were also adventurers quickly passing on horseback.

“It is easy moving with the wyverns.”

There were too many undeveloped pieces of land in the north.

The village populations didn't increase due to lack of roads and the areas overflowed with monsters and beasts.

Despite the Arpen Kingdom having a degree of stability, this was limited to the big cities, castles and Vargo Fortress. The frontier villages of the kingdom were threatened by the invasion of monsters.

“Work together to block them. We just need to hang on until morning!”

“Mercenary-nim, if you don't run away then I will give you a reward.”

Users and travellers visiting helped defend the villages.

The villages that fell into a crisis would give users quest to save the village. Merchants hired players or mercenaries to protect their goods along the trade routes.

The Arpen Kingdom that Weed started grew up with the users.

The users living in harmony with it!

The north was different from the Hermes Guild that oppressed the weak on the Central Continent.

Merchants, adventurers, craftsmen, artists, etc. decided their fates themselves and challenged their dreams.

Weed had hope that the Arpen Kingdom could develop.

“It is better to buy this land before it is too late. Stores will have to pay a monthly rent and I can sell and dispose of things at a cheaper price.”

Even the frontier villages were likely to develop in the future.

The villages would carefully expand against the invasion of monsters.

Fields filled with corn, potatoes and sweet potatoes were looked after.

A mining village finding a gold or even silver mine would be an amazing dream.

-This is outside the territory of the Arpen Kingdom.

The people are envious of the cultural achievements and free-spirited life of the people living in the Arpen Kingdom.

Many of the territory in the remote regions had been lost but Weed didn't mind.

"The small villages will later come back. Once they do, they will be subjected to heavy taxes for a while!"

Weed travelled around the remote areas with Seo-yoon.

He rode Wy-3 and would stand on top of snow-covered mountains in the middle of the night.

The moon and stars shone down on them as Wy-3 rolled around in the snow.

Seo-yoon was the only other person but the atmosphere was sincere.

"I will create a fine piece this time. Then I need to master sculpting and raise Time Sculpting...gulp!"

He was filled with plenty of selfishness.

"Let's see, this is near a historic mining village. Since the fall of the Niflheim Empire, the mine has been closed and only copper ores have been recovered. Copper isn't worth a lot of money but it is fairly usable. Also, the copper ore means that merchants will visit to develop the area."

Weed looked at the maps in the historical books about the Niflheim Empire.

"Creating a sculpture in this place...yes, just keep it simple. Miners!"

He decided not to use the Sculpting Knife to cut wood or rocks. There was no limit to the materials he could use.

Snow decorated the landscape while the dwarves and men in the village

used copper for their sculptures.

A lot of the work of dwarves featured women and young children.

Original this was a dwarf mining village. The dwarves loved residing near mines. The dwarves could be called an advanced workforce.

Weed created a work of art based on reality.

The sky was dim and a cool breeze blew as he dissolved copper pieces for the framework of the sculpture.

“In the end, hard work is needed for sculpting.”

It was different from elegant and noble artists. A sculptor needed to shed sweat through manual labour to create a 3D piece.

Seo-yoon, Yellowy and Goldman ate boiled potatoes and sweet potatoes on the side. They also grilled horsemeat on top of rocks for Wy-3.

“There can’t be any mistakes.”

Weed melted copper and poured them into moulds.

A common blacksmithing job!

It was similar to a cookie cutter. In the past it was used to trim simple shapes.

The mold template was used to form the framework. Many modern buildings were made with a cement matrix. The joints and seams showed traces of unpainted cement. It showed the nature of the building and this style was very common.

Therefore the sculptures would have a different feel depending on the raw material. The texture and shape was important.

“The collar...perfect!”

Weed created the common attire of the miners.

A sculpture of a miner with the colour of aged copper was completed.

Of course, Weed combined his intermediate blacksmith skill with sculpting to create breathtaking pieces.

-Ugh, this sculpture.....

-I have a long way to go. I'm quitting.

The unique spirit of a sculptor created detailed and unique patterns that a blacksmith could only dream of.

"In fact, a blacksmith places more emphasis on the strength of the material. Copper is an inferior material so that would never bother with it."

Weed finished the work before dawn.

-Please set the name of the new sculpture.

"Miners Working Around the Clock."

Of course, they should never take a break. For the further prosperity of the Arpen Kingdom and a comfortable retirement for Weed!

-Miners Working Around the Clock is correct?

"I'm certain."

-Masterpiece! Miners Working Around the Clock has been completed.

A majestic sculpture made by the sculptor Weed who is the king of the Arpen Kingdom and who wandered around the continent learning the power of nature and time.

The sculpture of real sized miners made by melting copper has been completed after a minimal process.

Creating the framework, melting the ingredients, pouring it and trimming it, no unnecessary steps were used.

The sculptor Weed had perfect skills across many areas.

Drooping eyes and a strawberry nose. The belly fat and pickaxe placed on the shoulder gives the impression of a confident miner.

This sculpture will be a symbol of Kairaka mining village.

Artistic Value: 3,749.

Special Options: Miners Working Around the Clock will increase

vitality recovery rate by 24% for a day.

Mining skill +2.

Luck will rise by 68.

Perseverance will rise by 43.

The likelihood of finding rare minerals will increase.

Current number of Masterpieces created: 27

-The skill proficiency of Sculpting has improved.

-The skill proficiency of Blacksmithing has improved.

-The skill proficiency of Handicraft has improved.

-Fame has increased by 121.

-Perseverance has increased by 2.

-Strength has increased by 1.

-Insight has increased by 1.

-The skill proficiency of Time Sculpting has improved.

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

-The loyalty of the residents of Kairaka mining village will increase.

The residents will feel gratitude for the King making the sculpture directly and will hold a festival.

There will be a temporary increase in birth rate after the festival.

Crime will be strongly suppressed.

Intimacy will dwarves in this area will increase.

“Kuhuhuhihi! Masterpiece, masterpiece. I got stats.”

Weed laughed loudly.

Sculpting and Handicraft was close to the master level and he could feel it directly with his hands.

“It is like walking down the street and picking up a winning lottery ticket.”

It was hard work but still fun.

“Eolsu eolsu.”

He felt good about the sculpture so more laughter emerged. It was a strange laugh and he suddenly recalled Seo-yoon watching from the side.

Weed turned to look at the staring Seo-yoon. Next to her were Yellowy and Goldman.

“.....”

He was used to adventuring alone so he felt quite embarrassed.

Seo-yoon said.

“A sculptor...it is natural to feel happy after creating a good piece.”

A good woman who could understand the path of an artist!

“Ah, yes. It is impossible to control my emotions when it comes to art.”

Weed thought he was really blessed. Meeting a woman like Seo-yoon in his lifetime was a blessing.

Seo-yoon said quietly.

“It is lucky you are a sculptor since it might be too much as a warlock or a necromancer.”

Laughing like that at a strange skeleton or chimera.....

Weed didn't say anything.

In fact, when he was a lich he had summoned skeletons. He had enjoyed laughing together with the skeletons.

‘I don't understand her taste.’

The sun was about to rise as the far away sky was red.

Weed said to Seo-yoon.

“Come here.”

“.....”

His intentions were obvious even for those who were ignorant.

Weed held her shoulder as he kissed the blushing Seo-yoon.

At that moment, the sun came up.

“Golgolgol, I want to meet a woman.”

“Omoooooo, I miss the females!”



Tang tang tang!

“What is happening?”

“I am from the Hermes Guild. I have a good offer for you.”

“I’m not buying anything!”

The intelligence agent Benchaim of the Hermes Guild was confused.

The reaction of Weed’s colleague, Surka!

“I didn’t come to sell things. We came to off Surka-nim the position of a lord.”

Benchaim explained the offer to Surka.

Weed had many young and confident females as colleagues. He guessed it would be easier to recruit her.

“So you want me to make a dirty backroom deal with the Hermes Guild and betray Weed-nim?”

“That’s not it. We think that Surka-nim’s reputation is good enough to become a lord. The Hermes Guild recognizes your skill which is why we offered the deal. Wouldn’t you rather show your talent instead of remaining among the ordinary northern users?”

“Do you think I will sell my conscience for a lordship?”

“A person should work according to their value. Think about it rationally. You will be able to do much more if you have the position of a lord.”

“I am comfortable at the moment. Ajusshi, I don’t want to live that life.”

Tang!

The door was closed fiercely.

Another information agent affiliated with the Hermes Guild met with Romuna.

“You will give me magic books? As a gift? Wah, I’ve been looking for this.”

“A lordship in the north.....”

“I will work hard to learn this spell. Then I will burn away the Hermes Guild in the war.”

“.....”

Irene had a very good reputation among the users.

She generously used divine magic on beginners in the city and helped out parties in difficult situations.

Her good nature had spread widely.

She was rarely alone so the information agent had to come up to her in the middle of a square while surrounded by people.

He explained the matter to Irene.

“Huk, how can you ask me to do such a bad thing?”

“It isn’t bad. Isn’t this an opportunity? The Hermes Guild is different. We treat people fairly depending on their ability and talent.”

“Too bad, too bad. Ahh, poor Weed-nim.”

Irene shed some tears. It was like a female protagonist in a movie crying after being betrayed by a man.

“Irene-nim is crying!”

“Who is this person?”

The people gathered in the square.

“Who are you? What were you talking about?”

“Everyone, please calm down. I just made a good offer to Irene-nim.”

“Are his words true, Irene-nim?”

“I’m not sure. To me, he is a very bad man!”

The information agent was kicked out of Morata.

Pale and Maylon also refused the offer.

“Betray Weed-nim? Hah, so that I can escape from the hell hunt? No, I won’t. I’m am meant to be his hunting slave for the rest of my life. I’ve already sold my soul to Weed-nim. I don’t doubt it. It is over. My parents have set up shop in Morata and encourage me to go hunting with Weed-nim.”

“I don’t want to. But should I broadcast this suggestion?”

The recruitment of Weed’s colleagues failed in succession.

But Hwaryeong and Bellot had an entirely different reaction when contacted by the information agents.

“A lordship? In the centre of the continent? Well, I would be far away from Weed-nim. It is a good suggestion. I got it. Come on.”

“The lordship..... Heh, you are a good judge of character. Would you like a party every day? And you can buy a few dresses and bags.”

The women unabashedly accepted the offer!

The information agent was embarrassed by the number of requirements but he succeeded in signing Hwaryeong. Bellot was also a famous celebrity that they knew information about.

“Bellot-nim will be happy as a lord on the Central Continent.”

“Is it possible to be the lord of a free city?”

“There are...it is difficult since there are already other lords.”

“Then please arrange a lordship in the north.”

“What land do you want?”

“A place where transportation is convenient. Then won't a lot of people come for the parties?”

“I will give you what you want.”

The information agents couldn't help laughing at the vanity of the celebrities.

‘How many visitors will come to a party thrown in the occupied territories of the north?’

The Hermes Guild decided to actively support the parties in the north.

Geomchi, the instructors and the students were also contacted. But it was difficult to have a conversation with them.

They were often in very dangerous hunting grounds and the agents found it impossible to track them. Even if they were tracked, they gave off the impression of a serial killer.

“Excuse me.....”

“What?”

“Ah, nothing.”

Chapter 8: [No Title]

“Welcome Lord-nim.”

“Welcome. We have been waiting.”

Robin was welcomed by lined up soldiers as he came to Ars Village that was in his territory.

1,000 soldiers were dispatched from the Haven Empire.

“This village looks good to begin with. There is much room for development.”

Robin bought himself the position of a lord in the north with his money.

There were approximately 200 remote villages.

Shortly after the war ended, there were no quests, specialties or mercenary guilds.

“I have to develop this as quickly as possible. First, I should equip them with the basic facilities of a village?”

Robin decided to take advantage of the internal affairs mode. He committed 9 million gold to the village.

-Ars Village is experiencing financial abundance.

The residents are surprised at the huge investment of the wealthy lord.

The residents have received facilities, security and economic investments so the future of the village is bright.

Village fame has increased by 5.

Security has increased.

“Money must be spent correctly.”

Robin widely expanded the centre of the village with the village internal affairs mode.

“This skeleton is enough to make it grow into a large city in the future.

The city's traffic plan will increase the number of tourists.”

A giant fountain was installed in the square and wide streets for carriages were connected.

The lord ordered red brick and white stone buildings for the commercial district. The stones for the building were directly moved by the residents.

It was necessary for the lord to establish wages. Naturally, it was impossible to have an unpaid forced labour.

“In order to ensure their loyalty, should it be 2 silver a day? The village will develop quicker if the residents receive money. Money isn't something that should be saved.”

The mobilized residents were paid 5 gold per day. Young children to the elderly participated in the building of the commercial district.

“Weapons store, armour store, grocery store, furniture store, specialty stores...this village isn't bad and can develop into a market in the future. Should some livestock be raised in the grassland area near here?”

Raising cows was very fashionable in the north. It was easy to get excellent cattle and they could graze as they desired on the vast grasslands.

It was uncommon to see hunters pulling 1,000 horses.

“Cows entering the city will make the streets dirty. Horse trade should be developed in the lower level of the market.”

Robin boldly gave up on cattle breeding.

He also wasn't fond of the agricultural sector.

Due to the nature of the profession, farmer users didn't tend to have large yields. They needed to clear land outside the village but this would make the scenery worsen.

But the users couldn't adequately utilize the wide plains.

It was for realistic reasons since they couldn't block the attack of monsters.

It was like leaving a breadbasket for monsters and security would worsen, decreasing the loyalty of the residents. The chances of monster invasions would significantly increase so Robin gave up on the small income of the agricultural sector.

“My city will be the centre of tourism, finance and luxury goods production. In order to do that, I need to use the right investment strategy in the beginning. My father got ahead of others due to bold investments.”

Many of the northern villages were appointed to people like Robin.

The Haven Empire wanted the lords to quickly stabilize and develop the area.

In return, the lords would receive considerable wealth. Once the village and cities were stable, they could see materials for money. This would benefit the Haven Empire a great deal.

Robin thought the north was worth more.

If the village grew to a city then his status and honour would be guaranteed. He would use his money to become one of the influential lords of the continent.

“Training centre for the blacksmiths and jewellery craftsmen. An auction and accommodations will develop the tourism industry. I should make it in advance.”

He planted rare trees to decorate the landscape and built 150 luxury accommodations.

-Residents are heading to Ars Village.

The population has exceeded 3,000 people.

“The work is growing rapidly. My village has the highest population around here. Although the initial development is slow...at some point it will increase dramatically.”

The 9 million gold meant that the village no longer felt undeveloped. There were new buildings luxuriously decorated.

Robin received an additional 4 million gold from the Haven Empire. Of

course, such a large amount of money wasn't for free.

“I will use this money to build a castle. A big and beautiful castle...it will increase the reputation of the village with tourists and increase the authority of the lord. Knights will also pledge allegiance to me.”

A castle was essential for a lord's reign. A huge amount of money would be invested in it but it clearly had positive effects.

Merchants from the Central Continent came to Ars Village to sell luxury building materials. Many of the construction materials were difficult to procure directly.

In the past, cities were built with stone from the free cities and principalities.

The residents grew richer every day and the economic power rapidly rose. The village was crowded with merchants and tourists from the Central Continent.

“If all the people in the vicinity come to me...I will also accept residents affected by war in the Central Continent. Yes, my money means I can catch up with Morata's development speed.”

Robin launched the housing construction.

Due to the very cheap housing, almost no taxes and excellent facilities, the number of residents was growing every day.



Weed roamed the territory of the Arpen Kingdom. Weed found famous hunting grounds from the information boards.

-The title 'Fighter who Enjoys Hunting' has been acquired.

A title given after hunting down dangerous monsters.

A person who has this nickname won't shrink back when encountering the enemy.

-Fighting Spirit has increased by 10.

Remarkable achievements due to the hunt!

In a short period of time, his level had gone up by 5.

Even so, he was still only level 427.

“There is still a long way to go.”

Weed asked Seo-yoon.

“Did you gain some levels?”

“A little bit.”

“What level?”

“471.”

“Heuheuheuk! It is like I suddenly doubled in size. My stomach is upset from eating pajeon (korean type of pancake) a week ago. By the way, this isn't important but what level is your swordsmanship?”

“Advanced level 8. Today I will reach level 9.”

“Heoheok, it feels like the pajeon is coming up.”

He had lost too many levels on the final secret sculpting technique quest.

He estimated that Bardray had reached at least level 500. It was like being famished after only eating sweet potatoes for one week.

“I didn't play with other people while growing up.”

Weed toured the central area of the Arpen Kingdom between Morata and Vent Castle. There was an overwhelming amount of information about the central region on the bulletin boards.

Users withdrew from the dungeons after clearing them so they were decent hunting grounds.

“Cooking delicious seafood soup at the hunting ground. Many people are bringing them into the dungeon.”

“Various types of flower decorations for the farm. Affordable prices, wildflowers. Don't ask about the source.”

“A new branch of the Grass Porridge Cult has been born. The Midnight

Snack Porridge unit! Chicken porridge, ham hock porridge, bossam porridge. Looking for new members. The Wheat Porridge unit will provide barley drinks!”

Due to the crowds of people at famous dungeons, a market formed.

There were many players who came back to the central region from the remote areas after realizing this fact.

The location was great and wooden villages started being built on plains and rivers. The village residents were especially made up of young people.

“Weed-nim rules the Arpen Kingdom. The kings and nobles are the same but I can believe in Weed-nim.”

“I will believe in Weed-nim even if we are in the depths of hell.”

Hunters and lumberjacks continued to bring their wives and families.

The places with traces of the Niflheim Empire had large villages created.

Most large villages were at places where transportation was convenient and was close to rivers or plains. The cities of the Niflheim Empire that flourished in the history books were being recreated.

Some villages had players settle in for hunting and adventures, increasing their population.

Weed was able to experience the evolution of the Arpen Kingdom through his trip.

The features of every city were being developed. The rural areas contained buildings from the era of the Arpen Empire.

The higher birth rate meant more warriors were being trained. They helped defend the fortresses, granaries, etc. from the monsters.

The construction of different buildings led to commercial development.

The Keltun Kingdom soldier camps and Mapon Kingdom trade centres were examples of buildings from the warring period.

Vent Castle reflected the elegant architecture of the Niflheim Empire.

The construction required time and manpower but added historical and cultural value.

Weed granted some benefits as the king while wandering around. Strong and harmonious buildings would grant a positive benefit to the development of the city.

The Arpen Kingdom was a colourful and interesting place.

The ellyons wearing green hats and clothing quickly spread out through the north. Due to the nature of the fairy, they ate dew at night and made new friends.

Initially they stayed in nature but soon frequented the villages.

The ellyons developed mines and increased the growth rate of the grain after playing in the farmlands.

The arnin had a role in looking after domestic animals. They cared for cows, pigs and sheep. There were only a few arnin but they could take care of thousands of livestock each.

In the future, they could tame dangerous predators like the saber-toothed tigers and the griffins. Saber-toothed tiger corps or griffin knights might arise. They would be good in war as well as increase the efficiency of hunting and adventures.

The changes in the north meant a lot of time was needed for the roads to be connected. The activities of the users slowly widened but the griffin could overcome these constraints.

“Hmm, the development is fast. Speaking of which, there must be fairly organic quests.”

The normalization of the Northern Continent.

Despite the undeveloped areas, there were several advantages compared to the Central Continent. Weed's adventures was an advantage.

And adventurers and merchants contributed to the Arpen Kingdom.

This type of development had several advantages over the Haven Empire.

The large scale reconstruction of Mordred, the capital city of the Niflheim Empire was mainly carried out by merchants.

“An excessive amount of goods needs to be transported here.”

“If we use the river and plains then it can quickly arrive at the destination.”

“Artifacts are also being found often. Let’s not forget that merchants are developing the kingdom.”

Mordred would occupy the centre of the northern transportation network once it was fully restored.

When looking at the location on a map, Morata was in the middle of mountains and rivers. Mordred would be the core location that connected the north and west areas of the Arpen Kingdom.

In the past, it was the capital of the Niflheim Empire but it was abandoned and became a monster’s paradise.

-A party that is going to explore the Red Ruins near Mordred. The hunt will last for 5 days before returning.

-Magician wanted! Looking for 10 magicians to hunt at Mordred.

This dungeon was a heaven for magicians.

An expedition was configured with at least 1,000 users to beat the monsters.

They would fiercely assault the monsters before the monsters ended up hiding in the mountains or dungeons.

After the war, the army of the Arpen Kingdom periodically came here to fight against the monsters.

The result was that the monsters were reduced to a certain extent and the debris could be cleaned up.

Mordred of the Niflheim Empire used to have a population of 1 million people. The buildings were gradually restored from the outside.

After the architects built the Earth Palace, they would be dispatched to

Mordred.

There were many people interested in the architecture of the Arpen Kingdom.

The Central Continent had the buildings and cities already completed. However, the northern architects created the roads, villages and infrastructure themselves.

Many novice architects gained experience from restoring Mordred.

The Arpen Kingdom's development was due to the collaboration between architects and merchants.

“Architect is a really attractive profession. The essence is labour but there are endless possibilities in the future.”

Weed watched the developments of the Arpen Kingdom from the streets.

He had started in the Rosenheim Kingdom but the Arpen Kingdom was starting to feel like home. A comfortable feeling like his own home.

Users were running around the shops to buy cheaper goods, women sitting down and residents wandering.

“I'm not far away from mastering sculpting.

He had created some fine pieces and masterpieces while staying in the Arpen Kingdom.

Weed's handicraft and sculpting skill was currently at 97% advanced level 9. One last step remained to the master level.

The next stage of the final sculpting technique was also close. Time Sculpting was at 64% beginner level 8. It was very difficult to raise Time Sculpting so he had great expectations of the intermediate stage.

“I understand that no class masters have appeared yet.

The Class Master Quest was a really big topic. But no one who mastered their profession had appeared yet.

He sculpting numerous new works in an attempt to increase his skill

proficiency. No matter how many sculptures he continued to make, the proficiency didn't increase much.

Weed travelled to a different regions and used those materials to make the sculptures. Sometimes he would mobilize moonlight sculpting or blacksmithing.

'No, I need to master sculpting sooner.'

Weed had experience mastering skills.

During the final secret sculpting technique quest, he became a sword master. At that time, his level was 680. He defeated strong monsters and achieved the last stage.

Hard work was the true way to become a master swordsman!

"If I raise it harmoniously then I might be able to reach it at a much lower level."

He might be able to achieve sword mastery when his level was still in the 400s.

He also had concerns about Bardray.

Compared with Geomchi, his level was enough to become a master swordsman.

"If given the opportunity, I will conquer the best hunting grounds and achieve master level without delay."

But in Bardray's case, he didn't train in the basic skills. Because of his overall level and diverse range of skills, he still hadn't achieved mastering swordsmanship.

Weapons, armour, quests and exceptional subordinates meant he didn't place much significance on the sword.

"It isn't just Bardray. There is another one close to becoming a master."

Weed didn't hear any rumours about other masters.

Among the professions, only a few were challenging it.

There was too much competition among the combat professions so

someone like Bardray was likely to achieve it. However, they lost their lives in challenging battles so their proficiency would drop.

But the blacksmith profession was different. In particular, the blacksmith Fabio was significantly ahead of him.

“He is right in front of mastering the blacksmith skill. Umm.....”

Weed wasn't obsessed with the order itself. The first to become a class master would receive great honour.

It was enough if he mastered sculpting and could freely use Time Sculpting.

“Of course, I hope that I can occupy the position of the first class master.”

Weed continued hunting and making sculptures.

He couldn't do anything else. The development of the Arpen Kingdom was dealt with and he needed to do things for himself.

“This is life. My legs will stretch when I sleep at night and when I go to the toilet in the morning.”

There wasn't a big secret behind Weed's growth.

If he wasn't hunting or on an enormous adventure then he was sculpting!

The dungeon and quests were simple so they only took a day or two to solve.

“I need to make a piece that will increase sculpting and Time Sculpting.”

Minor sculptures could be completed.

A shining fox or a realistic wolf.

These types of works continued to be popular with the users.

Even so, they would be tough to help Weed master sculpting. These types of sculptures increased the proficiency by 0.1%.

Maybe other art professions were just as hard to master.

“Others need to do these type of things. Art is a hard calling.”

Weed suddenly pictured a sculpture he could make.

‘I should take advantage of nature sculpting and moonlight sculpting. A really huge magnum opus...something others can’t follow. And I can only make a sculpture.’

Now that becoming a sculpting master was right in front of him, his worries deepened.

Then he had a sudden epiphany.

“My knowledge...I should use the knowledge gained from travelling around the continent. I am one of the people that knows the Versailles Continent the best. Of course, I am fully that it can’t be exactly the same.”

Weed was honest with himself. But he thought he could try.

“Okay, let’s do it!”

So he decided to make a very large sculpture!

He settled in a location near Mordred.

Weed decided to make a sculpture that was 2,000 pyeong.

The Versailles Continent.

From Jigolaths in the north to the Desert of Tranquility. The large sea islands to the east and the forests in the west. Lakes, mountains, oceans and cities would be included in this piece of the Versailles Continent.

He needed to express the basic scale using the oceans.

“I should use nature sculpting to bring the rain and snow. The desert area should have a shining sun.”

Just thinking about it caused his body to tremble.

“I have to stay humble. Otherwise I don’t deserve to be called a real artist.”

In medieval times, there were the names of a few genius artists. They finished works of art over a few years or even decades.

The artwork was large in size so a lot of effort was required to complete it.

“Art is hard work. There is no art without labour. Hard work is required to admire art.”

Weed held a shovel and pickaxe instead of the Sculpting Knife and started to carve the Northern Continent.

He had seen the recent changes in the terrain and was confident about his knowledge. However, he needed to use his memory for the rest of the continent. He had a vague idea of the volcanoes and coastline.

As a piece of art, it didn't have to be exactly the same as reality. Still, there were areas that he didn't have any knowledge of.

Wy-3 was good for short and long distances but there was another way.

“Yurin, I will buy you clothes.”

“Oppa, what do you want me to do?”

“That.....”

Jigolaths that had made him shocked in the past.

Volcanoes popped like firecrackers as a backdrop to a hunting festival.

He then went to the south pole.

In fact, the south pole was still an unknown and unexplored area. But Yurin could draw a picture using some books.

“Oppa, I found some books about the south pole in the library.....”

“I'm not interested. It is just a book.”

“There is a pile of treasure.”

“Where? Let's go!”

They visited the place in the book using Picture Teleportation.

Weed and Seo-yoon had experienced the harsh cold of the north so they

were dressed warmly. Yellowy and Goldman were thickly dressed and Phoenix was brought as well.

But some places weren't able to be prepared for.

The south pole was on an entirely different level.

-You have arrived at the south pole.

The wide stretches of glaciers have permanently increased courage by 6.

-You have felt the severe cold.

Abilities have been reduced.

You are breathing in the cold and the durability of your clothes have dropped.

Swaeeeenng!

Even the sound of the wind was different.

The cold wind blew quickly.

“Well...since it is like this. Soon...you will be able to adapt.”

Weed believed that he had the survival ability of a cockroach. But after seeing a penguin die from the cold, he changed his mind.

Living spirits of ice wandered around looking for living things to be their prey.

They were in a serious crisis and barely managed to hunt it with their lives intact.

Phoenix moaned and said.

“This isn't a place where we should stay, Master.”

“I think so...no, I don't care but if you think we should go back then we will.”

Even Phoenix was barely able to return from the dungeon.

Yellow barely survived becoming a frozen bull.

They experienced this piece of the continent with their own body. A special environment that was just as challenging as the 10 forbidden zones.

Hunting while checking the terrain!

Yurin and Seo-yoon helped a lot in this. Yurin would take him everywhere while Seo-yoon read books about the terrain in the library.

Even the sculptural lifeforms like Yellowy, the wyverns and Bingryong were mobilized.

“Ummooooo.”

Yellowy ploughed an area that would represent the seas and rivers.

“This is a wide, piece of land but the materials are lacking.

The wyverns would bring stones and mud from other areas. Bingryong was necessary to express the north and south poles.

“This is great. Breathe out.”

Making ice sculptures.

The Northern Continent was completed after a week.

In contrast, the Central Continent was well known so he didn't need to do a lot of research about it. But the rivers, roads and villages were intricately connected so it was hard to express.

The spacious Southern Continent that was filled with desert was almost too easy!

The east and west wasn't easy but he expressed it accurately. Even the orc castles in the Plains of Despair were clearly represented.

Weed spent 2 months making the sculpture.

He visited more places and hunted in order to not fall behind. Information about famous dungeons and hunting grounds were obtained and he cleared it with Seo-yoon.

He didn't only concentrate on hunting so he only raised his level 2 more times.

“Now it is 80% complete.”

Weed became more confident about the piece.

He couldn't exactly make the continent. It was too impossible. He was elaborate as possible but there were bound to be some errors in his task.

Nevertheless, it was 2,000 pyeong so a magnum opus would come out.

Goldman played an especially important role in this.

“Be sure not to damage the sculpture when stepping on it.”

“Gol gol gol gol, I will be careful.”

“This is a chance for you to participate in the artwork. Goldman, isn't this experience rare?”

“Using this precious body to pull out weeds, I really met the wrong master.”

A sculptural lifeform pulling out weeds!

Other users watching were astonished at the level of Weed's sculpture.

It wasn't obvious at first glance that the sculpture was of the Versailles Continent.

Fortresses, villages and mountains. The commercial districts, residential areas, streets and Grand Buildings were all reproduced. Rivers flowed in the correct direction and there were lush waters. The harbour had small, wooden sailboats floating along the currents to the big ocean.

The elves were asked to plant specific tiny seeds where needed. Thus, there were golden fields and granaries. There were even tunnels where the mines should be.

Rain soaked the ground and caused the waters of the river to rise. Volcanoes in the Jigolaths occasionally emitted real smoke.

The important thing was that there was a constant air circulation around the continent.

Weed had just intended to make a map at first but it became more complex and sophisticated.

Compared to the thriving and developed Central Continent, the Arpen Kingdom still gave off a rural feeling.

There were beautiful sculptures such as the Tower of Light.

A piece where he could no longer carve up the ground!

Weed turned his gaze towards the sky.

“The world isn’t just the land. Of course, real estate is very important but that isn’t the end of it.”

The sculpture already had rain clouds. But the sky should have the sun and the stars.

“Moonlight Sculpting!”

Moonlight sculpting was used to generate constellations in the sky. Shiny stars, the moon and the sun were created!

Time Sculpting was used to create a natural flow.

The sculpture created a miracle as the sun, moon and stars moved while illuminating the ground.

It made the Versailles Continent feel much more beautiful.

“It was a mistake. 2,000 pyeong is too small. I should have made it over 10,000 pyeong.”

The limit couldn’t perfectly express the sunrise and sunset.

Nevertheless, Weed decided to stop here. If he indulged in endless greed then the sculpture would never be finished.

A sculpture made with Nature Sculpting and Time Sculpting.

“It is done. I still have regrets but...curly ramen noodles are still delicious.”

-Please set the name of the new sculpture.

“The Versailles Continent.”

-Is The Versailles Continent correct?

“Um, wait a minute. A better name...should it be The Living Versailles

Continent?”

-Is The Living Versailles Continent correct?

“That still seems a little strange...just name it A Beautiful World.”

-A Beautiful World is correct?

“Yes. I can't think of a cool name.”

-Nature Magnum Opus! A Beautiful World has been completed.

An absolutely immortal sculpture using the process of nature!

The name Weed can't be left out of the history of sculpting. The magnificent artwork he created and outstanding achievements led to today's work.

A sculpture of the Versailles Continent.

It shows a surprising sophistication and vitality.

The artistic value is high and it also reveals hidden aspects of the continent's geography.

This is a living, breathing sculpture that everyone will like.

Artistic Value: 14,261.

Special Options: The vitality of all animals and plants within 100 km of A Beautiful World will increase.

A fountain of life, those who visit it will have their health and mana increased by 55% for a week.

All stats will increase by 24.

New knowledge about geography is obtained so intelligence and wisdom will permanently increase by 2.

Adventurers will be able to get the skill 'Intuitive Observation.'

The birth and growth rate of nearby animals and plants will increase.

Nature is cleansed.

Current number of Nature Magnum Opus created: 2.

- The skill proficiency of Sculpting has improved.
- The skill proficiency of Handicraft has improved.
- Fame has increased by 9,384.
- Art has increased by 25.
- Wisdom has increased by 3.
- Intelligence has increased by 14.
- Insight has increased by 2.
- Affinity to Nature has increased by 65.
- All stats will gain an additional 3 points for making a Magnum Opus sculpture.

-The relationship between all species except monsters will become friendlier.

-The skill proficiency of Time Sculpting has reached level 10 and transformed into intermediate Time Sculpting.

You have received a great enlightenment regarding time.

Moment Sculpting can stop the world.

The gods won't interfere as you create a museum outside the framework of time.

“Ohhhh.”

A rotten smile bloomed brightly on Weed's face.

Credits

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