

The Legendary Moonlight Sculptor

(달빛 조각사)

Volume 46

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: Declaration of Surrender

Alcard was a great commander of the Haven Empire who was called the Northern Commander.

“Maintain the defensive positions. Slay the enemy using these features. The Imperial Army won’t fall to the enemies in a place like this!”

The Arpen Kingdom users were going over the walls of the fortress with great courage and speed, turning the defense facilities useless.

Magicians rode bulls while the sky was covered with avians.

The Imperial Army was being blocked on both the ground and the sky.

Pushukung!

Among the northern users rushing, a huge monster appeared.

-Kuwooooooh!

The monster let out a large roar towards the sky.

An underground monster that humans couldn’t imagine!

Long antennae, pointed teeth like saw blades and solid legs that could dig at the ground or buildings. Wrinkles were carved on the forehead and cheeks to make it look stronger.

Despite the appearance, it had a flexible body structure like a worm or centipede.

Twitch twitch!

The horrible tail and 40 legs twitched.

“Hiik!”

“M-monster!”

“Really ugly... It is like a demon that Weed will need to exterminate.”

“Haven’t you heard? That’s Weed-nim!”

The imperial soldiers and northern users withdrew in fright as the monster with 40 legs moved forward.

Weed's new look was also a hot topic on the broadcasting stations.

Reporters received the cooperation of the avians and flew in the sky to relay videos of the inside of Puhol Fortress.

“Look. This is... That monster is Weed the God of War. The Arpen Kingdom and Haven Empire. A shocking figure has emerged in the important battle for supremacy over the north. He looks strong. With that appearance, he definitely has to be strong!”

“The bulletin boards are flooded with female fans who are watching this. Their assessment is that there is a masculine charm.”

“I expected him to unleash havoc in this battle. Hasn't Weed-nim only devoured a few users?”

“The officially confirmed number is 127 people.”

“Does that include people who exited his rear?”

“Of course. They were just eaten again anyway.”

The broadcasting stations showed the shocking video of the Hermes Guild users being eaten by Squashy Wiggler.

His entire length was 20 metres and the huge monster could catch people at a very fast speed. Despite the humans trying to flee, the tongue just shot out and wrapped around their legs.

“Kuaaak!”

He demolished a wall and ate the Hermes Guild user.

The show hosts shouted excitedly.

“Hiding is useless!”

“Ah, did you see that? It wasn't just the Hermes Guild users but many members of the Haven Empire were revealed as the building cracked.”

“Does that mean there are some safe places to hide?”

“Rather, he seems to be putting them aside to eat later.”

“What makes you think that?”

“He just covered the entrance with a heavy amount of saliva.”

The northern users attacked Puhol Fortress along the path that Weed opened.

Weapons hit Squashy Wiggler but it was no use.

“When the disaster happened, visibility was limited due to the fog. 127 was the number that our employees directly saw. It is believed that he has eaten over 150 people.”

“This is an amazing combat achievement to watch. He just eats them despite the Hermes Guild members using their skills.”

“It is like he swallows them immediately without chewing.”

“Someone just emerged from his rear. I can’t believe I’m saying something like this.”

“It is a serious misfortune. Those who aren’t digested will just be eaten again.”

“Warriors with high health and resilience can be seen trying to escape.”

“.....”

A moment of silence flowed between the hosts.

The infamous Hermes Guild users defending the fortress looked pathetic.

“Anyway, it is completely surprising. Weed is continuing to be active inside Puhol Fortress. Is there a reason why he is fighting with that appearance?”

“Of course, there probably is an exact reason but it is difficult to speculate at this point.”

“Please just say any rough guesses.”

“The end of life is associated with a hearty appetite. Perhaps he intends to represent the progress and prosperity of the Arpen Kingdom.”

“It is an appearance that causes fear in enemies but reassures allies.”

The broadcasters around the world gave different interpretations of Squashy Wiggler.

-Don't let your children watch this.

-The worst. Really.

-This is a request to stop the broadcast.

The viewers were uncomfortable at first glance but became curious once they learned it was Weed.

Surprisingly, some people thought that his twitching and wriggling was cute. It was like a struggling artist's rough paintings becoming valuable after they are famous.

Weed showed the optimal efficiency and brute force on the broadcast.

Companies had already contacted Weed about making dolls of Squashy Wiggler digging at the ground or with his tongue stretched out.

The advertising companies were well aware of Weed, the Arpen Kingdom, and the Grass Porridge Cult.

Regardless of the age group, they immediately launched a PR plan. The main items included phones, phone carriers, air conditioning and television.

The character was outstanding so it was easy to advertise.

Squashy Wiggler make a phone call with the latest phone from underground. The call would be maintained even while he was digging.

"As expected from the ultra-high definition. Follow me!"

Squashy Wiggler enjoyed playing games, the high speed internet as well as communicating with friends.

Downloading an image related to food would only take 0.1 seconds.

"Yummy. Telecom unleashed!"

Squashy Wiggler danced around an air conditioner in hot weather.

"Wind wind blow. Wind wind, wind wind!"

After watching a horror movie, Squashy Wriggler's mouth would leap out of the big TV towards the slack-jawed viewers watching on the sofa.

Weed's popularity overseas in the IT and electronic industries was amazing. In particular, items related to Weed were very popular in Europe and the United States.

A burger shop handed out free dolls of the sculptural lifeforms, increasing sales by 20 times and there were endless guests from morning to night.

Employees of the world's largest oil company also started studying Squashy Wriggler to promote the development of advanced technology.

Tire specialists advertised Squashy Wriggler's 40 feet wearing their products that could move in adverse terrains.

Squashy Wriggler was able to hit the jackpot through advertising.

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The death of the necromancer Krobidyun! Knight Myul's death!

Users that represented the Hermes Guild lost their lives in their fierce battle for Puhol Fortress.

"Bring it on. You weak trash!"

The level 483 Konsuller.

He was a famous user of the Hermes Guild. He cleared dungeons and hunted dangerous boss class monster.

"Come out boldly. Don't think that you've won just because of your numbers!"

Konsuller wanted to fight Weed so he stood in front of the incoming northern users. Every time he swung his sword, the northern users within 7 metres were swept away.

At least 400~500 people died due to Konsuller.

Avians tried to grab him from the sky but he killed at least 30 of them.

Many Hermes Guild users suffered under the onslaught of the northern

users. However, Konsuller was a particularly strong user that they couldn't take down.

His resilience, vitality, skills management and swordsmanship was excellent enough to overpower the enemy.

“Is he still not tired?”

“Tough, tough. We have no choice but to hit him as much as possible.”

The northern users were prepared for a large scale assault when a man suddenly appeared.

A muscular body, broad shoulders and a wide back.

The man's name was Geomchi-4.

“You are called Konsuller. I challenge you.”

Konsuller was surprised at Geomchi-4's words but soon regained his composure.

“Heh, a challenger.”

He would apologize if he ran into such a muscular man at night but this was Royal Road.

The character's strength depended on level and equipment.

“Fool. Bring it on.”

Konsuller knew about the existence of the Geomchis through the Hermes Guild's information network.

Their individual fighting ability was high but it was impossible to guess their level or skill proficiency.

Together, they could wreak havoc and didn't hesitate against ranged attacks or magic spells. However, it was different if they were alone.

Konsuller's sharp eyes examined the opponent's equipment.

‘It is a complete level 330 set. It is cheap and the options aren't that good. He deserves recognition in the north but...’

Konsuller laughed.

In the developed Central Continent, many users managed to find the best equipment.

Although there might not be a big difference in options, the price would jump ten-fold due to design elements. The so-called luxury goods that were more expensive than mid-sized cars.

Naturally users of the Hermes Guild wore the best equipment and improved their skills through endless competition. There was an elite group of people to compete against so the Hermes Guild users were naturally proud.

Konsuller said arrogantly.

“It seems like you know how to fight. But I will teach you what combat is in Royal Road.”

“Yes, you make a lot of noise.”

“Heh. There is no need for a long dialogue before battle.”

“That’s right.”

Geomchi-4 jumped in front of him.

‘He really is stupid and ignorant. I will show him the difference between me and those people who can’t fight. Those people aren’t on the same level as me.’

Konsuller moved his body and used an attack skill.

“Flash Sting!”

The sword he was holding flew like a ray of light towards Geomchi-4. It was a mid-ranged attack skill that increased the power of his swordsmanship by 8 times.

The attack speed was so fast that most opponents couldn’t escape. It also penetrated the opponent’s armour for a critical hit so it was one of Konsuller’s favourite skills..

Geomchi-4 didn’t try to avoid it.

“Deflect Moving Blade!”

Geomchi-4 also used a sword skill.

It was an martial artist's skill that he made directly. His sword moved like it was going to block the ray of light, but it actually deflected it.

-The skill Deflect Moving Blade has been used.

It has neutralized Flash Sting.

Your body will lose balance for 0.2 seconds.

Wobble!

Konsuller's body staggered.

"This is nonsense!"

Geomchi-4 was rapidly approaching and there was no way to avoid the counterattack. Geomchi-4 saw all of Konsuller's weak points.

'There is no need to feel any tension.'

Geomchi-4 had never met an opponent in Royal Road that made him sweat with fear. Wide area skills frightened him but he could avoid damage in one-on-one fights.

'The ultimate tension is dying during a battle.'

Those who believed in their equipment and levels would only have a certain amount of skill.

He never knew what would happen in a battle but there was no need to be nervous. He just had to demonstrate his skills.

There weren't weak characters in Royal Road, only weak people.

"Urachachacha!"

Geomchi-4's sword moved in a dazzling blur and cut Konsuller. He named the brilliant attack skill 'Urachachacha.'

It was a monster hunting technique that could unleash 99 consecutive attacks.

-Urachachacha advanced level 3 (76%): A technique that deals continuous attacks.

Any weapon can be used and the damage will get increasingly stronger.

Every 5th successful attack will paralyze the enemy for 1 second.

If the enemy avoids it then 38% of the counterattack will be neutralized.

The opponent had to prevent Urachachacha before it started or avoid it altogether.

The simple, ignorant attacks landed on Konsuller.

“Front Shield Defense!”

A shield was summoned that fit around his body. However, the shield fell apart after two or three attacks.

‘This ignorant bastard! How did he get this sword skill? No, what is with his strength?’

He protested against such a ridiculous strength.

He had moved forward and deflected the attack to the side simultaneously.

Despite attacking from a distance, Geomchi-4 used ingenuity to counterattack. Geomchi-4 had figured out how to deal with ranged attack skills from the other students.

-Konsuller of the Haven Empire has been killed.

Konsuller was someone who fearlessly hunted the boss monster Peperkakun. He belonged to the Haven Empire and lost a one-on-one challenge.

-Your level has risen.

889 combat fame has been acquired.

Agility has increase by 1 due to the victory.

-The skill proficiency of swordsmanship has improved.

“Heh, this loot.”

Geomchi-4 picked up a cloak left behind by Konsuller. Gold powder flew all over the place, causing it to glitter. A special effect that would

cause Weed's eyes to widen.

"It would be nice to pick up a sword. I am lacking equipment."

Geomchi and the students fought throughout Puhol Fortress.

Alcard had a good vantage point to conduct the defense and didn't miss that Puhol Fortress was being taken over.

Despite not knowing all the circumstances of the battlefield, he proved to be able to effectively command the troops.

"This is a crazy battle."

The commanders of the Haven Empire lamented.

Even if their power was 50-50, the opponents were bound to have an advantage.

The demoralized army was closed to wiped out and his reputation would be damaged with this loss.

A strong image was needed when fighting enemies.

The Haven Empire was considered invincible on the Central Continent and this attitude didn't change after building the fortress in the north.

But they were slowly deprived of the walls and defense facilities, and now the northern users and avians were pouncing at them.

"We can endure... For as long as possible."

Alcard the great commander was in a state where his limbs were being cut off.

"Tahol Knights. Drive the enemies out of the fortress."

"Yes. I understand."

The proud Tahol Knights of the Haven Empire were sent out!

They were heavily armoured NPC knights. Their individual levels exceeded 400 through the good hunting grounds and dungeons in the Kallamore Kingdom.

Arming and feeding them took an enormous amount of money. They

made significant contributions to the conquest wars in the Central Continent and came to the fortress in the north.

And Alcard received a report after 30 minutes.

“The Tahol Knights have been wiped out.”

“What?”

“They were isolated in the east hall... And wiped out.”

“Why didn’t they retreat?”

“The people who died blocked the way.”

The knights were quickly isolated somewhere in Puhol Fortress after they were mobilized.

The defense buildings had been seized by the avians.

They took advantage of the defense facilities to block the assault of the knights while the architects knocked down the building.

“It’s falling. Everybody get out of here!”

The towers and buildings fell on top of the imperial troops.

Puhol Fortress was built by the Haven Empire so that was enough reason for the northern architects to break it.

Alcard was extremely upset. The Tahol Knights he had directly raised had disappeared in a place like this.

“Relocate the 7th magic corps to a safe place. Prevent the enemy from coming to the rear of the fortress.”

“They are being tracked.”

“Send a lot of troops to help their retreat.”

After a moment, he heard the incoming news.

“The magic army corps has been destroyed.”

“I told you to send escort troops.”

“While wandering the length of the fortress...”

Puhol Fortress was a complete combat zone.

The gates and walls were already completely handed over to the northern users, while battles were waging fiercely in the residential areas and central roads.

It was a large military fortress where millions of people were fighting.

Kurururung!

It was the sound of the big defense towers mobilized to stop the Arpen Kingdom falling.

“Stop them. If we are defeated here then we will lose the northern colony.”

Alcard desperately ordered his private forces.

So far 650,000 imperial soldiers had died and of the 20,000 Hermes Guild users, only 1000 were left.

Of course, not all of them lost their lives.

Once Myul, Krobidyun and other powerhouses started dying, some members of the Hermes Guild quickly fled.

“Those selfish people. The battle isn’t over yet. Somehow an opportunity to reverse the situation will be created.”

That could be the case since the damage to the northern users was several hundreds of thousands of times larger. However, they wouldn’t be able to hold out for a long time.

A massive number of northern users had already reached the rear of Puhol Fortress.

The fortress was completely surrounded on all sides and the northern users had already made plans to raid other cities and castles.

“Catch Weed... No, Weed is too hard to catch right now.”

Alcard was half resigned to the loss.

Surrounded by enemies on all sides!

They would barely be able to endure through the night. But they would surely be wiped out tomorrow or the day after.

“At this rate, it will fall easily. We will all end up dying.”

Then he received a whisper just as he reached a dead end.

-Mapan: Hello. I am Mapan of Mapan's trading company.

'Mapan. At a time when I am busy... Mapan?

Mapan was quite famous in the north and Alcard also knew of him.

'He is one of the people closest to Weed.'

The surrounded users noticed Alcard's reaction to the whisper.

“Alcard. What happened?”

-Mapan: Can you meet me so that we can talk about the current situation?

Alcard noticed the atmosphere after hearing the words.

'He is trying to negotiate. If there could be a truce... Maybe we can buy some time or gain some benefits from the negotiations.'

Alcard carefully agreed.

“Of course. I welcome any talks. But I can't afford to leave this fortress.”

-Mapan: I will send someone directly to you.

“Please don't send a person who doesn't have the right to make decisions.”

-Mapan: Of course. They are very close to Weed so any decisions made will be formal.

At that moment, a woman with long hair dyed green appeared.

Yurin. Weed's little sister.

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Alcard and Yurin conducted the negotiations in a secret place.

Alcard minimized the troops and only had 20 people escorting him.

Yurin sat alone at a wide table as the representative of the Arpen Kingdom.

“By the way, you came alone?”

“Yes!”

“If you need help then call someone. Isn't Weed-nim also in this fortress?”

“No. Oppa is currently busy cutting off necks.”

“.....”

The faces of Alcard and the users reddened.

Yurin's description of cutting off the necks was a sufficient explanation.

Alcard touched the back of his neck for a while.

“If you insist. Let's have a discussion. First, what do you want in exchange for the Arpen Kingdom stopping their attacks and returning Puhol Fortress to us?”

He started the negotiations on a weak point.

But Alcard didn't have a wide variety of options.

The Hermes Guild would have to make many concessions in regard to the northern colony. If they rejected the negotiations then the only thing left was a massacre.

‘The guild might not want to compromise with the Arpen Kingdom, even if we end up being wiped out.

Therefore, the negotiations were being kept a secret from the Hermes Guild.

Alcard was in a disadvantageous situation so he would be forced to listen to the opponent's demands.

‘What did she come here to ask?’

Yurin outright said.

“Everyone will surrender. Puhol Fortress as well as the entire northern

colony.”

“Huh?”

“Have your armies and cities all surrender. Right now, your imperial soldiers are tragically dying. They will be accepted as soldiers of the Arpen Kingdom. All the cities and villages created so far will be taken.”

“Is that really necessary?”

“Yes. This much is needed.”

Alcard and the other leaders were at a loss for words.

‘This high...’

In any case, he managed to pause the battle for a brief period of time. But the enemy planned to steal the entire northern colony.

They had doubts that a pretty girl like Yurin could say such unscrupulous things.

‘It is Weed.’

‘She must be repeating Weed’s words.’

‘Weed is a bad man. He sent a girl to say such a hard thing?’

Alcard rejected the offer without even needing to discuss it.

“I’d rather be defeated. I have my own self-worth. I will inflict as much damage to the Arpen Kingdom as possible before dying.”

“You will be given a place in the Arpen Kingdom.”

“Huh?”

“You will command the Arpen Kingdom’s army.”

An unexpected proposal. The point of the negotiations was to lure Alcard to the Arpen Kingdom.

“Oppa said that you fight well despite being an enemy. The Arpen Kingdom is lacking talent. Why don’t you come over to the north?”

Their minds became complicated.

‘Join the Arpen Kingdom? That... I hadn’t even thought about it.’

‘Betraying the Hermes Guild. I am afraid of retaliation if I betray the guild.’

‘Standing on the side of the north. Changing my side. Is it possible?’

Many commanders in the Hermes Guild who lost were deprived of their privileges.

The fame and honour they personally built up would be lost.

It was a harsh penalty but the absolute authority of the Hermes Guild on the Central Continent meant they would never think of betrayal.

However, if Puhol Fortress belonged to the Arpen Kingdom then they didn’t have to worry about the Hermes Guild’s retaliation.

‘Becoming the army commander of the Arpen Kingdom... The luxuries and popularity will decrease. And I would have to face the Haven Empire on the battlefield.’

The Arpen Kingdom’s military was lacking.

He knew how much attention and effort was needed to create a proper army.

‘But... I think it can be done with the northern users.’

Alcard was a high ranking official in the Hermes Guild. Nevertheless, he had been interested in the stories of the Northern Continent on the broadcasting stations.

A pure and free world. The north was the first place in Royal Road where he could feel that. The values he had forgotten in pursuit of wealth and power could be found in the north.

‘People might feel that joy but it is better to remain in the Hermes Guild.’

It would be naive if he accepted Weed’s proposal.

Weed and Mapan had given extra conditions to Yurin.

Commander of the Arpen Kingdom’s army, two cities and becoming the

earl of a land. They wanted to conquer Puhol Fortress without any more bloodshed but above all, it was important to acquire the northern colony without a war.

“I need time to think about the proposal.”

“I can’t give you a lot of time.”

“I know. Time isn’t on my side. But is this something that can be determined easily?”

Then Yurin laughed brightly.

It was an expression like she was going to take the lunch of a university senior!

“Good. Then I will offer one more thing. If you come to the Arpen Kingdom then Oppa has suggested that you two quest together.”

“Quest?”

“The equivalent of two years of S-class difficulty quests.”

Weed’s quests were understandably broadcasted on television.

The income from the broadcasting fees and the popularity was a big temptation that couldn’t be ignored.

Weed would lose nothing from making the offer to Alcard. Weed’s quests were tremendously difficult so many users who participated would die as it progressed.

Alcard was a reliable, strong person so Weed wanted to obtain him.

It was a huge privilege just hearing the offer. Weed’s adventures boasted the best ratings and his colleagues also became heroes.

‘Isn’t this too much? The treatment is completely different from the Hermes Guild.’

Alcard wasted no more time and agreed.

“Good. I will defect to the Arpen Kingdom.”

“Commander-nim!”

The other users were surprised but they were Alcard's friends. Alcard accepting the offer was enough reason to convince them.

They weren't lower level knights and warriors. They were immersed in Royal Road and didn't want to become losers after the defeat at Puhol Fortress.

The thought of starting a new life in the north was quite persuasive.

Of course, a few days ago they never believed that Puhol Fortress would be occupied.

They decided to gift it to the Arpen Kingdom.

"The decision is made so the Haven Empire's colony in the north will belong to the Arpen Kingdom. As for the problem with the Hermes Guild users... None of the users can be allowed to remain alive."

He didn't dwell on betraying the Hermes Guild anymore.

He had changed to the Arpen Kingdom so now everything was for the sake of Weed.

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Yurin and Alcard immediately signed the peace treaty.

The information was passed through the Grass Porridge Cult's network and the situation in Puhol Fortress changed.

"Don't fight the soldiers anymore and find the Hermes Guild users!"

"Get rid of all of them!"

"Step on it!"

The soldiers also received a command from Alcard and focused on blocking the Hermes Guild users from running.

Thus, their slaughter under the hands of the northern users began.

"Cheeky bastards. Earth Reverse!"

The high level Hermes Guild users had to fight against hundreds of people.

Mana and vitality were reduced and the powerhouses collapsed one by one.

Some of the cornered members tried to escape but they were overpowered by the northern users.

“Hey, fight well.”

“I’ve only eaten rice in this battle.”

“I didn’t know my turn would come.”

They continued to fall under the onslaught of the northern users.

More than 100 Hermes Guild members gathered to try and resist. However, they were easily dominated by the northern users.

Many of them weren’t aware but this situation was occurring all over Puhol Fortress.

“I don’t want to die so I will surrender. Please treat me as a prisoner.”

Some users lifted both hands to express that they wouldn’t fight.

In wars between kingdoms, it was customary to only release the prisoners when reparations were paid.

Of course, the northern users didn’t accept this.

“No prisoners. Just die.”

“What? All knights and nobles who participate in war adhere to this principle.”

“You have killed hundreds of people on our side who surrendered.”

The Hermes Guild inflicted some damage but the northern users got a much larger profit.

Their abilities increased and valuable loot was obtained.

“Waaaaaah!”

Shouts of joy came from Puhol Fortress.

The Hermes Guild users had all died.

The northern users were determined to win the war with the Haven Empire but they never imagined it was such an overwhelming rout!

The NPC soldiers were turned to allies and the Hermes Guild members were exterminated.

Of course, a significant number of them had already fled but at least they had disappeared from the north.

Chapter 2: Hermes Guild's Outcome

The defeat of the Haven Empire! The shame of the Haven Empire!

The end to the war in the north completely shook the entire Versailles Continent.

KMC Media's signature program, the Story of the Versailles Continent.

Shin Hye-min, Oh Joo-wan and several professionals reported live.

“Oh Joo-wan ssi, will this make a difference to the future of the continent?”

“In the meantime, the north has suffered considerable damage due to the Hermes Guild. There was the prohibition of trade and sabotage through acts of terrorism. The economic and human losses were significant. Now their victory has laid the foundation for the kingdom's recovery.”

Shin Hye-min laughed brightly.

“A lot of viewers will be wondering about this so please explain in detail.”

“The Haven Empire has committed financially and technologically to the construction of cities in the colony.”

“I remember the broadcast. There was an interview with lords in the Haven Empire about the development of the northern area.”

“Yes, that did happen in the past. Currently there are many commercial facilities, residential areas and decorated market squares. The farmlands and mines near the cities were also developed. The problem is that the population is low so there is a limit to the development... This will be instantly resolved after joining the Arpen Kingdom.”

“There really are a lot of northern users. Is there a good connection between cities in the colony?”

“Of course. The Hermes Guild had many development plans so infrastructure such as the roads and marinas are excellent.”

The cities created as a bridge for the Haven Empire would be handed over to the Arpen Kingdom.

From the perspective of the Haven Empire, it was like handing Weed their order of sweet and sour pork.

At that moment, Shin Hye-min and Oh Joo-wan could see two sentences on their monitor.

-The current game broadcast as a 72.83% share.

The full broadcast ratings is 9.361%.

The PD standing next to the cameraman gave a thumbs up. It was natural for the hosts to like high ratings.

“The cities will now be joining the Arpen Kingdom. As well as the residents living in the colony. So what about the reactions of the NPCs? There is a chance the residents from the Central Continent might revolt.”

“They fully welcome joining the Arpen Kingdom.”

“I’m wondering about half the residents. They will have to change their country affiliation. Is it due to the high reputation of King Weed?”

“That is one of the reasons, but the residents originally lived in other kingdoms in the Haven Empire. Their kingdoms were conquered and they had the status of slaves, so they were pleased to be freed.”

“That is because slavery isn’t officially recognized in the Arpen Kingdom.”

“That is the important part.”

Shin Hye-min and Oh Joo-wan exchanged glances. The hosts and producers of the broadcasts were generally aware of Weed’s nature.

The Arpen Kingdom could gain a huge profit from slavery. A perfect slave kingdom based on exploitation!

They would eat barley bread at the crack of dawn, grass porridge for lunch and would sleep very late at night.

But unlike forced laborers, no taxes could be obtained from the slaves.

They had no property to manage.

If the Arpen Kingdom acknowledged slavery then tax revenues would go down and it would be easy to mobilize huge manpower for development projects.

-Right now, the agricultural prices are too cheap. It will be difficult to reap taxes.

In order to collect taxes from many people, slavery was abolished! Items such as coffee and sugar cane were grown through low cost labour in the north.

To plant enthusiasts who had to be satisfied with flowerpots in apartments, Royal Road was like heaven.

“Is it growing?”

“Wah! It is germinating. Sprouting!”

“The size of the lettuce is 15 metres. Heh. The target has been updated. I won't give up here. I will use everything to break the record of a 23 metres long carrot!”

Thousands of plant enthusiasts joined cafes and communities where they could talk about their crops in Royal Road.

-It is like a dream being able to plant in the earth instead of just the flower beds at my apartment. I will put up a few photos.

Cities had spacious land where wheat, barley, grapes and various agricultural products could be grown.

-Yesterday I spent some time in Royal Road. I got up early in the morning to plow the fields and could see as the sky filled with stars transitioned into the rising sun. I was extremely proud.

There were also users who cleared land in the stony mountains.

-I planted the seeds, waited patiently and it finally germinated! I planted herbs in a 5000 pyeong piece of land in the mountains north of Morata. I need people to help me take care of it.

-I also have land to the east of Morata... Are you Wild Manure-nim?

-Ohut. A famous farmer in Morata has joined our cafe!

Every once in a while, there would be taunting posts.

Title: Take a look at this garbage plant cafe.

Are you all farmers?

Kukuku. This year I've stepped on many flowers.

I also burned the flowers.

There were also posts to alleviate bad feelings.

-I will show photos of beautiful flowers. They are flowers that can only be seen in one season a year.

-If you are feeling bad then tell me. I will listen seriously.

-Life is tough. I gain courage and hope knowing that flowers will keep blooming next spring. Aja aja fighting!

People in the plant community considered the Arpen Kingdom as a holy land.

Miretas dreamt of becoming a farming master and had a huge scale farmland where he grew food, fruits and herbs.

There were many novice farmers who grew crops because there was no slavery.

Of course, popular items like grapes, barley, olives, tomatoes and rice were exported around the continent.

Daily necessities such as clothing and carriages were soaring due to the increase in consumption from the Arpen Kingdom's growing population.

"Now it is time to discuss the situation and development of the Arpen Kingdom on the Versailles Continent. Let's ask the professionals."

Shin Hye-min introduced the professionals in order.

There was a former prestigious guild master on the Central Continent, an adventurer who made great contributions and a high level user.

Many people knew their names in Royal Road.

“First, I want to ask about the Arpen Kingdom. What do you see?”

Shin Hye-min questioned the adventurer who replied.

“The momentum of the Arpen Kingdom is great. I thought they could win the war when objectively looking at their power. But the result was far beyond my expectations. I think the Arpen Kingdom’s future will continue to be bright. The challenge is always to create a new dream.”

The representative from a prestigious guild also replied positively about the future.

“They have a large force and time. Thanks to repeated victories against the Haven empire, it is likely that the kingdom and potential of the users will increase even further. Usually the management of a kingdom is done step by step, but sometimes huge leaps can be taken.”

The experts all had a positive outlook for the Arpen Kingdom.

“I would like to hear the opinion of Lee Yong-han ssi.”

Every time he appeared on broadcasts in the past, he had a negative outlook of the Weed and the Arpen Kingdom.

Even though the Haven Empire was a little bit bigger, he was always receiving criticisms from the viewers.

“Kuheom. The strength of the players who won the war is partly due to the leadership of King Weed. The north will no longer be a continent of adventure, instead it will be the symbol of prosperity.”

Lee Yong-han admitted it.

He was afraid of the viewers’ criticisms but sometimes a kingdom could have great advances after a war.

Moreover, the Northern Continent was like a black hole sucking in users.

The broadcasting stations estimated that 93.7% of beginners started in the Arpen Kingdom.

The Central Continent had high taxes and expensive prices so starting there made it hard to catch up.

Furthermore, the severe wealth gap and lack of facilities for beginners diverted new users to the north.

Of course, the urban development of the Arpen Kingdom was behind but the variety of fun facilities meant that the users were much happier.

In addition to the new users, many people also migrated to the north so the growth had accelerated.

The economic experts also provided their opinions.

“Technology and capital, extensive lands, equal opportunity and motivation for development. A US consulting firm estimated that the Arpen Kingdom’s economic growth rate is 16% per month.

“16% per month?”

“Yes, that means the economic strength will double in just 4~5 months. Technology will be as early as 1 year, and there will be no innovations in the next two years.” The activities of the merchants stood out. The merchants made high investment risks and promoted the development of the kingdom.

Oh Joo-wan asked the economic experts.

“There is still a big gap between the Central and Northern Continents. For example, the Haven Empire could be seen as a developed country while the Arpen Kingdom is an emerging one. Can that gap be reduced?”

“The Central Continent’s facilities have been destroyed by war. Residents are still leaving and there are no signs that the rebellions are calming down. And the leaders of the Hermes Guild are in a crisis itself. There are disputes due to escalating greed so the political power of the lords have to be overcome.”

“The Haven Empire is in a difficult situation. But considering the large number of cities and territory in the Central Continent, won’t it be hard for their power to decrease?”

“It is difficult to guess with only simple calculations. There are several uncertain conditions in Royal Road that could make a country decline. Historically, it is unprecedented for a great empire to collapse so suddenly.”

“Then from now on, we will listen to words from the Haven Empire’s side.”

*

“Another defeat.”

Lafaye seemed to indifferently accept the results of the Puhol Fortress battle, but he was burning with anger inside.

Combat troops had been sent on an expedition to the north.

‘It is ridiculous. Why did this happen?’

It was a mystery how such a terrible result had emerged.

Tactics and strategy all flew away as they became entangled with Weed’s tricks and the northern users.

“In 1~2 years, the Arpen Kingdom might end up surpassing the Haven Empire.”

Every station was chattering loudly about the prospects for the future, and the Hermes Guild’s intelligence network also made similar judgement.

If they maintained the current scale, the Haven Empire had the best economic power. However, the Arpen Kingdom’s development was incredible.

It was difficult for the Haven Empire to catch up with such rapid acceleration.

Despite some good policies, it became distorted once it came time to be executed by humans.

The extreme corruption, chaotic security, and worsening public sentiment meant the Hermes Guild and Haven Empire suffered.

Bardray came up to Lafaye.

“The economic empire that we built is crumbling against the Arpen Kingdom. Now that they have wings, what will we do in the future?”

Bardray was in charge of wars while Lafaye was in charge of internal affairs.

They believed in each other’s abilities and cooperated, however now both of them were nervous.

Bardray was disappointed about the internal affairs of the Haven Empire while Lafaye didn’t have any confidence in winning the war.

‘The best situation will be Bardray leading the army to the north to obliterate them. But will that end the war? What if we are defeated once again?’

Weed’s tricks meant there would always be surprises.

Rather than fighting on the plains, the Arpen Kingdom could scatter if Bardray led the army to the north.

Defeating Weed would be the next best thing, but the time and cost of a military expedition to destroy the north was an issue.

Small resistance armies would occur in various parts of the Central Continent, turning the empire into a mess.

The Haven Empire would be unable to climb out of the mud and would be ruined.

Lafaye expressed his thoughts to Bardray.

“Right now it is difficult to correct the situation. The Hermes Guild’s myth of invincibility has been broken and there is a chance our military and economic dominance can be reversed later on.”

“How can we fix it?”

“The straightforward way... Delay the timing. The Haven Empire won’t be conquered in a war. If we optimize the army and increase the size of the Hermes Guild then we can hold out for a long time.”

It was a method of accepting new users into the Hermes Guild. In the process of expanding the territory, they had to accept more members. Missions such as subjugating the rebels and ensuring security were given to them. However, accepting new users was bound to cause bigger trouble later on.

Lafaye shook his head.

“We don’t have that many methods. The Arpen Kingdom will continue to follow after us.”

“So there isn’t a straightforward way?”

“There is an extreme method to solve it.”

Lafaye stood at the window and looked at the magnificent Aren Castle.

After the Central Continent was conquered, it was only a matter of time until the Hermes Guild unified the rest of the continent.

It was based on their overwhelming military strength, but this could also become a poison pill.

In fact, even if Weed wasn’t there, Lafaye thought that the Versailles Continent was too large.

The east, north and south were all being pioneered.

Millions of users were flocking to Royal Road so the Hermes Guild found it had to deal with all of them.

‘Of course, this could also be attributed to Weed’s popularity.’

Lafaye carefully opened his mouth.

“In the end, the solution is to reduce the taxes to an amount comparable to the Arpen Kingdom. The opposition of the users would reduce and it would solve many problems.”

“I don’t think we need to cut taxes so much. If the income reduces then won’t we have to decrease spending?”

“We can survive.”

The Haven Empire consumed a huge amount of funds on a daily basis.

They had a large army and their lavish lifestyle needed to be maintained.

Rewards also needed to be given for the sake of the Hermes Guild's unity.

"The company is behind us."

"Did you speak to them?"

"Yes. The sponsors have decided to give the Hermes Guild economic support until we conquer the continent."

The Hermes Guild was changed into a corporation in reality and investors got involved.

In their position, they absolutely couldn't miss a chance to invest in Royal Road.

"The Grass Porridge Cult? They are weak and only have overwhelming numbers. They are constantly breaking their formations."

"We will crush them so thoroughly that they won't rise up again. A show of force is needed to make them succumb."

"It is worth showing supremacy in Royal Road. I will give you support if necessary."

Lafaye met with the representatives and managed to gain an agreement for financial support.

"They have decided to take responsibility for a portion of the taxes."

"How is that possible?"

"It is a huge financial commitment."

A vast amount of money was poured in to cover the expenditure of the Haven Empire.

"We must prepare for victory in the Versailles Continent. Train more troops to develop our combat power while getting rid of regulations and lowering the taxes. There is no way we can lose."

"Will the northern users take a step back?"

“Yes. If they enjoy a comfortable standard of living then there is no reason for them to fight us. The Royal Road users will no longer have a reason to follow Weed.”

By default, the north could be seen as on Weed’s side.

The Hermes Guild thought that an organization like the Grass Porridge Cult was absurd.

The organization skills of the Hermes Guild meant they could mobilize 50,000 people in only 30 minutes.

When looking at the northern users, it was filled with people who genuinely wanted to enjoy Royal Road.

Many users were driven to the north because they couldn’t stand the tyranny and wars between the prestigious guilds.

“We have raised Weed. Now we need to do some tax cuts as well as several measures that can’t be exposed.”

“It will be easy if there is a war. The power of the Arpen Kingdom is poor.”

“There is still a chance. We need to tear down Weed and the Arpen Kingdom with a sharp knife, not a flimsy sword.”

“If we fail again...”

“It won’t be good for us.”

“That...”

The worst results flashed through Lafaye and Bardray’s heads.

They were receiving a huge amount of cash support from the international investors so if the results were bad, there was a chance of bankruptcy.

“We have already climbed on the tigers. Now we need to ensure that we don’t fall.”

“I guess so.”

“This is our chance from now on. We need to make sure we win.”

Hours after the battle at Puhol Fortress, the major lords of the Haven Empire were gathered at Aren Castle.

The expressions of the lords of the Haven Empire were stiff.

“Losing to the north again... When looking at the long term, it is important to secure the north for the hegemony of the empire.”

“Won’t they come and invade the territory of the Haven Empire now?”

“That is the problem. The fame of the empire has fallen and we are getting more rebels every day.”

“It will be an enormous headache if Weed joins with the rebels.”

At that moment, Lafaye and Bardray entered the meeting room.

The attention of the lords who were talking loudly turned to them.

Lafaye intended to deliver his idea to the lords.

The lords were looking at him with a mixture of mistrust. The myths and achievements of the Haven Empire was rapidly collapsing.

Lafaye and Bardray. The two men they thought would lead the Hermes Guild to conquer the continent felt shaky.

‘The collapse of the empire.’

While the lords were looking at them with deep concern, Lafaye came forward and spoke first.

“Right now, the empire is facing multiple risks. The territories aren’t stable due to rebels and according to the judgement of the intelligence network, we won’t be able to take down the north without risking the Central Continent as well.”

Lafaye’s words didn’t have a simple meaning.

After conquering Puhol Fortress, the north could enter the borders of the Haven Empire and secure some Arpen Kingdom colonies.

The lords of the areas near the north became stiff.

‘War will ravage my territory.’

Due to the numerous wars caused by the Haven Empire expanding, many cities and production facilities were destroyed.

Cities were destroyed during the empire's territorial expansion in order to build a stable base from a clean slate.

If the cities were destroyed then the lords would receive enormous damage to their revenue.

The giant knight Boemong asked in a bold voice.

“Surely the Haven Empire can stop the Arpen Kingdom? Isn't our military power enough to unify the Central Continent?”

“There are many cities and fortress so it will be hard to avoid damage in an invasion.”

“Don't be ridiculous. The army and the members of the Hermes Guild are strong! So far, we can't tilt the balance of power in the north but it will be a different story if they come to our land. We should try a straight comparison of power!”

“The important thing is that the invaders are unpredictable, so we might suffer defeat in some areas. It is because we have already experienced a war.”

The Hermes Guild had suffered embarrassment because they failed to accurately measure the Arpen Kingdom's power.

Apart from Morata, it only had wide lands. However, they had endured the subsequent invasion of the Haven Empire and now the users had counterattacked.

Lafaye and the leaders of the Hermes Guild failed to predict how many users would be mobilized to face the invasion.

The power of the Arpen Kingdom was fundamentally due to the support of the users.

Weed alone was nothing but the users of the Arpen Kingdom following him couldn't be imagined.

“There are many difficulties in governing a vast empire. A long war with

the Arpen Kingdom is the worst thing that can happen. But if the northern users come down, they won't be hard to kill. We just have no choice since they can scatter through the vast territory.”

The lords nodded like it was natural.

The Hermes Guild had a power that no one else could compare to. The Hermes Guild was an extremely powerful, independent force.

But the land and population they had to rule over was too much.

The Hermes Guild users that had shown strength and prestige until now were dissatisfied with the defeat.

“If the Arpen Kingdom joins hands with the rebels in the Central Continent... Their forces will increase by several times. We also need to be seriously concerned about the invasion from the southern desert.”

The Haven Empire had to realize that the worst situation had a high likelihood of happening.

The northern users and rebels could form an anti-Hermes Guild coalition.

The regular users would start to make fun of the Haven Empire and irreversible wheels would start rolling.

Many users in the Central Continent would move under the anti-Hermes Guild banner.

Weed's popularity and the decline in public sentiment towards the Hermes Guild was enough.

The faces of the lords reddened.

“Such a thing... Is it feasible?”

“Even now, the intelligence network is unsure about this point. But the Arpen Kingdom will increase to several times its current size. It will be the worst if we lose one or two more big fights.”

It was no longer a problem of the northern expedition failing. The empire was at a serious risk of collapsing.

If the Haven Empire lost power, they would be unable to reign over such a wide area.

Even though they defeated the prestigious guilds, public sentiment as well as the broadcasting stations was with Weed.

The broadcasts received the best ratings when the Haven Empire was defeated.

No matter how high level and powerful the Hermes Guild was, it would be difficult to reverse the flow.

Lafaye told them the worst case scenario but there was a high chance of such a crisis occurring.

“Due to that, we have to look at the distant future. For the sake of the empire’s future, we will cut taxes and get rid of the fees for the hunting grounds and dungeons.”

Kalkus frowned.

“There was a 20% tax cut a short while ago... How much lower?”

“Now it will be lowered by one third. All places belonging to the guild will have no admission fee.”

A shocking tax cut.

The taxes would now be only slightly higher than the Arpen Kingdom and there would be no admission fees.

“Once taxes are cut, the empire will begin rapidly recovering. And the players standing on Weed’s side will have no reason to attack the Haven Empire. Once their power is reduced, we can concentrate on the enemy.”

“In the end, I guess it has to be like that...”

The lords looked at each other.

It would be good if Weed’s side had less users. But they earned wealth and power from the heavy taxes so it was difficult to give it up.

“After the public sentiment is rectified by the tax cut, we will thoroughly smash the Arpen Kingdom.”

“Then after the war?”

One of the greedy lords asked. This was the question that everyone was most curious about.

“It will return to the original tax rate.”

“Won’t there be a backlash from the users?”

“The core of the opposition will disappear along with Weed. Without the Arpen Kingdom, no one will be able to protest the increased taxes.”

The lords thought this method was too simple.

‘My eyes have become blurry.’

It was obvious that the original tax rate would be restored after the unification of the continent.

But in the meantime, their comfort would be reduced.

It was an effective means only in the future.

The herd mentality was hard to break up.

The Hermes Guild didn’t like losing to Weed and would ensure that the Arpen Kingdom tasted the bitterness of defeat.

Once the Arpen Kingdom was so thoroughly destroyed it would be difficult to recover, winning would become much easier.

The Hermes Guild needed to completely trample on them to prevent opposition.

“We are the Hermes Guild and we won’t lose this war. Apart from mobilizing the army, we will use every means necessary to win.”

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The internet sites heated up after the battle at Puhol Fortress.

A number of users who played Royal Road were spread all over the world so it was understandable that the result would be a hot topic.

But there was a cafe that had its membership numbers rapidly increase.

-The Weed Hating Alliance.

People from various countries like South Korea, the United States, Japan, China, Europe etc., all joined.

It broke 5 million users in the first day it was created and now had a huge 70 million members.

Meanwhile, the popular Weed fan clubs only had around 300,000.

It was because there was a separate fan club for the Arpen Kingdom and Grass Porridge Cult.

The Weed Hating Alliance poured vicious words onto the forums every day.

-I hate Weed.

-I really hate him. His words and actions, everything is disgusting.

-I fall asleep every night cursing him.

-I bought a fox statue from Weed. Huhu. I smashed and burned it! Why doesn't he just eat barley bread?

Malicious curses kept being posted. There was only one reason behind their anger.

Seo-yoon, the goddess of the Grass Porridge Cult.

She was friends with Weed. There were rumours of a romantic relationship that they didn't want to believe.

There were posts by those who saw Seo-yoon at the battle for Puhol Fortress.

Title: The confession of an avian.

I joined the avians. I play them in Royal Road. Both good and bad things happened after joining the avians.

Human users wouldn't know this but the wind is very cold in the sky.

Flying in the cold wind affects the joints of my wings.

And I... Don't regret it.

I saw her.

Kyahahahahat.

There were thousands of comment on the post about seeing Seo-yoon.

-You have received a blessing.

-W-were you close? Are you in the same space as the goddess right now?

-You have enough good luck for a lifetime.

-No. This person... What is the problem with having wing joints affected by the cold? Didn't you get to see Goddess-nim directly.

Title: I joined the avians. Heh heh.

I won't speak for a long time.

Thank you very much.

I want to thank my parents who gave birth to me and everyone else.

I even forgive my indifferent co-workers and dirty little sister.

I've lived 31 years alone with no friends but I have no regrets.

Since that day, a light has been lit in my soul.

I now have a reason to live. Thank you.

-I'm envious. I hope to find such hope and courage.

-Isn't the likelihood of seeing the goddess higher if I join the avians?

-I think it is a possibility.

-I deleted my level 310 character after the battle at Puhol Fortress. It was in order to be born again as an avian.

-Heol. What a waste.

-There is nothing precious in this world. We should all disappear. Whether God exists or not, the best thing will be for her to reincarnate.

-Don't speak so carelessly. It is offensive. Be careful of your words. The beauty of Goddess-nim will not disappear. Forever and ever.

-I know it clearly. Goddess-nim's voice and everything else won't

disappear. We will forever be in the fields of history.

Weed saw her first when she was beautiful like the snow.

Her cold and dark expression couldn't hide her beauty. And now she had a brighter smile.

Seo-yoon had a beauty that would be incomparable anywhere in the world.

If a person felt depressed or tired then just looking at her face would give a clean, healing feeling.

-I own a small kimbap business that I had to get a loan to save it. Life is really hard. I'm sorry for all... Just as I thought about committing suicide, Goddess-nim came. Isn't it still worth living?

-Where do you live? I will go and eat at your kimbap store.

Seo-yoon's appearance was also defined.

-I couldn't believe it in the first second after seeing Goddess-nim. And after two seconds, my soul was no longer my own.

The Weed Hating fan club heated up thanks to Seo-yoon.

Her appearance at the battle of Puhol Fortress led to many confessions.

-Wait a minute.. It was insane. It felt like all reason had faded. But why do I feel so proud?

As a match for the characteristics of the fan club, there were also posts suggesting retaliation against Weed. But there were those who opposed this.

-It is a good idea to assassinate Weed. I 100% agree. I would stab him if I could. But what about after that? Won't Goddess-nim be sad?

-Aaack! I keep telling people not to speak so carelessly. I can imagine Goddess-nim being sad.

-Goddess-nim with tears in her eyes... Keheok. My heart almost stopped!

-That can't be allowed to happen. The achievements of mankind. We must protect her, even if the Versailles Continent is destroyed. Isn't it

worth it?

-Even if I don't like it, Weed makes Goddess-nim smile. We just have to do our best.

-For the Arpen Kingdom and Goddess-nim.

-How about making the Grass Porridge Cult a formal religion in reality?
I will become lifelong follower and make donations.

-Let's use the money to place a statue on all the continents, the Mediterranean Sea and the Pacific Ocean.

-That is a great plan!

Chapter 3: Water Park that Will Earn a Fortune

The news of the Arpen Kingdom's territory expansion and Haven Empire's sudden tax cut spread across the continent.

"Hooray!"

"Free from taxes. The struggle is over."

"Nonsense. For the Hermes Guild to obediently withdraw..."

"It is worrying. Anyway, it is a good thing."

Thanks to the immediate response, the connection rate to Royal Road rose by four times. All the users in the Central Continent welcomed it.

"It will be really fun from now on."

"Yes. I'm going to be a merchant. I will definitely sell and get rid of some things. Most of the profits will be my own."

The cities and stores were bustling with users. Thanks to the tax cuts, the goods were being sold at lower prices.

"Gallikos' Sword please. It has already been sold out? Then Nerdal's Crescent Moon Sword!"

"I will order this. Please show me all your useful armour."

"Horse. I am looking for a horse. For the last few years, I haven't been riding a good one."

The stores were packed with users so there was no room to move.

Users wanted to buy the goods at a cheaper price.

"I want to buy more."

"There isn't much money left..."

"Earn it. Gain equipment from the hunting grounds. Quickly recover the money."

"I have no money to go to the hunting grounds in the south."

“Don’t you know? The dungeons are free.”

“Heeok!”

The free admissions policy meant that many users turned to hunting.

After the Hermes Guild’s policy of high taxes and limited dungeon admission was changed, the situation dramatically improved.

People waited at the dungeon entrance looking for parties.

“I am a combat priest. I am capable of stage 2 treatments. I will help you properly.”

“We are organizing a party to hunt the boss monster Batoto. Please contact me if you are more than level 400.”

“Looking for someone to hunt until evening. We are a medium size party looking for more than 10 people to sweep the dungeon.”

The cities and hunting grounds were crowded, as well as the roads connecting them.

The depressed Central Continent had turned into a huge, vibrant land.

There was even a change in the rebels.

“I want to go back home. Now I can return to my farm in the Haven Empire.”

“His Majesty has got rid of all past sins... I’m going to quit and return to my occupation. Now I need to feed my family.”

“Giving land to farmers, horse drawn carriages to merchants and jobs to blacksmiths? Then I have to go into the city. Now I can live and eat.”

The resistance degraded and was reduced by at least half.

Following the tax cut, the Hermes Guild implemented various economic measures and development started.

-The Haven Empire will pursue full-scale construction projects in order to promote stability and convenience on the Versailles Continent.

Proclamations about 30 Grand Buildings simultaneously popped up

with Emperor Bardray's name attached.

Of course, skilled architects were needed for Grand Buildings so they needed to actively cooperate with users.

Despite a lot of time needed before it could be implemented, the Grand Buildings were announced in order to increase public sentiment.

The heated response to Hermes Guild's tax cuts buried the result of the Puhol Fortress battle.

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Lee Hyun felt violent sadness despite winning the battle at Puhol Fortress.

It was because that evening, he watched television while eating rice and kimchi stew with his sister.

"There are large tax cuts in the Haven Empire. The stores and markets in the Central Continent are crowded with people. Jae-ho ssi, hasn't the atmosphere of the Haven Empire changed?"

"Yes, that's correct. The number of people wandering the cities have grown and the items in warehouses are selling like they are on fire.

"Then will the cities quickly stabilize?"

"There is still opposition from residents in areas conquered by the Haven Empire, but it is clear that big changes are occurring."

Every broadcasting station associated with Royal Road was relaying news about the tax cuts. Lee Hyun was so surprised that he dropped his spoon filled with pork.

"The Haven Empire lowering taxes is like taking an axe to my feet."

Considering the military and economic scale of the Haven Empire, there were many actions they couldn't take.

They could form three or four more northern expeditions but it would still be impossible to devastate the Arpen Kingdom.

Nevertheless, the tax cuts started stabilizing the empire.

The stations also played the Hermes Guild's official announcement.

-The Hermes Guild has unified the Central Continent after the endless wars and have been seeking to stabilize the continent.

We made many friends and enemies on this path, but there is no room for regret.

This isn't an excuse, but we knew that someone else would eventually walk along that path.

We wanted to end the war quickly. However, the Hermes Guild has realized the mistakes in the process that made some residents inconvenienced.

In order to stabilize the Versailles Continent, the Haven Empire will cut tax rates for users living in this land and will engage in economic development.

These changes aren't just in words and we will show you directly.

Stay tuned for future developments on the continent.

A series of complaints burst from Lee Hyun's mouth.

"The Hermes Guild doesn't have the spirit of a collaborator."

In order to conquer the continent, they would continue to attack the Arpen Kingdom.

In the long run, the Haven Empire would use the Arpen Kingdom as an excuse to increase the taxes.

"I can no longer raise my taxes in the future..."

His grief was so large that he was almost moved to tears.

His kingdom was high in integrity but it was poor. He wasn't interested in such things.

After taking care of the Haven Empire and developing the economy, he had a plan to raise the taxes of the Arpen Kingdom.

His goal was to rule the Arpen Kingdom as a dictator and to exploit the residents.

“A man should have that much ambition.”

Yet the Hermes Guild had changed their policy because of the crisis.

“It really is tough to become a dictator.”

Lee Hyun and Lee Hye-yeon watched the television together.

Users were wandering the stores in the Central Continent with happy expressions.

Lee Hye-yeon and Lee Hyun each said something.

“Pretty clothes.”

“What a waste. They should be brought to the Arpen Kingdom to be exploited...”

The attractions on the Central Continent that had been booked full for one month also appeared.

“Wah! A pretty place.”

“They are just an opportunity to rip people off.”

The economic development measures and Grand Buildings construction in the Haven Empire were also announced.

“I would like to live in the Central Continent too, Oppa.”

“The housing prices will rise.”

Despite a similar growth process, the siblings had different thoughts.

*

Lee Hyun took two seconds to pick clothes from his closet for a date with Seo-yoon.

Despite the rest from university and playing Royal Road every day, he still went on outings with her around the neighbourhood.

“Jeans... I will wear this t-shirt.”

It was a simple fashion for going out.

Jeans could be worn all year round and a jumper could be placed over

the t-shirt if it was cold. Of course, he wore thick, corduroy pants when it was winter mornings. It was a similar fashion to the middle aged men who worked at the fish market.

His simple fashion didn't change for his dates with Seo-yoon.

"They are comfortable clothes to wear."

Sometimes he also wanted to be fashionable.

It was because Seo-yoon was so beautiful. He wanted other people to say they were a well-suited couple just once.

"Yes, let's wear this new t-shirt that I had been saving."

Lee Hyun pulled out a t-shirt he bought a few months ago for a discounted price of 12,000 won.

The fabric was soft, it was fitting and comfortable and there was meticulous stitching.

"Indeed... Clothing from a market is different."

Lee Hyun was satisfied as he looked in the mirror.

He left his house with clothes that had a chicken sewn on his chest.

Seo-yoon was playing with Dogmeat and she was also dressed in jeans and a white t-shirt. She shone despite the simple clothes. Not to mention the face and perfect body ratio.

If Seo-yoon was born hundreds of years ago, that beauty would be enough to cause wars between countries.

Of course, artists would have tried to paint or make sculptures of her.

"Have you waited long?"

"Nope. I've been playing awhile."

Seo-yoon was gently brushing Dogmeat.

Growl!

Dogmeat growled as soon as she saw Lee Hyun. The five puppies Dogmeat gave birth to also had stiff tails.

Animals weren't stupid. Their new owners, Lee Hyun and Seo-yoon had a good relationship!

'Something is suspicious. He is a wicked, old master.'

The dogs distrusted Lee Hyun.

After giving Seo-yoon Dogmeat, the second Dogmeat also fled to her home every day. Despite being right next door, Dogmeat 2 didn't even bother urinating at Lee Hyun's house.

Lee Hyun's eyes shone fiercely.

"Lie down."

Cheolpudeok.

The fear imprinted in her mouth made Dogmeat instinctively obey.

She feared Lee Hyun opening the lid of a pot only for it to contain one of her puppies.

"Swim."

Houjeok houjeok.

The wise Dogmeat and her puppies obeyed.

"Now that is more desirable."

After steamrolling over the dogs, he started his neighbourhood outing with Seo-yoon.

They stumbled across some high school thugs wandering the side of the road.

"Hello everyone!"

These days, the students greeted them with a polite attitude. There was a legend about them in the alleys.

"Lee Hyun... Be careful around him. And don't touch his younger sister."

"Why?"

"Do you know Chan-hwi hyung?"

“Yes. That hyung doesn’t like people he doesn’t know wandering into his area.”

“A little while ago, he discovered Lee Hyun loitering in front of his home.”

“Was there a fight? Chan-hwi hyung wouldn’t tolerate that.”

“He decided to beat the other person up. So that evening, he headed out with an iron pipe. He dragged a bunch of other people with him.”

“So? Was the police called?”

“I would be glad if that was the case. That Lee Hyun came out of the gate holding a scythe.”

“ ... ”

“He was also holding a chicken with blood dripping down. Thirty people came to fight him... nobody entered. Anyway, since that day Chan-hwi hyung hasn’t entered this neighbourhood.”

It was rare for neighbourhood thugs to have not heard that legend.

Rumours about Lee Hyun and Ahn Hyun-do circulated and were greatly inflated.

“He trained with a real sword.”

“That dojang... Have you seen their skill with the sword? It isn’t surprising that the hand of someone who tried to touch his little sister was hacked off. He had sufficient skills for it.”

“More strange people have entered the area because of him.”

“Did you see the people who attend the dojang? Even the hyung-nims don’t dare touch them.”

Lee Hyun and his family were a presence that couldn’t be touched in this area.

Seo-yoon was so beautiful that even the gangsters and bad men were eyeing her. But they were blocked by highly trained bodyguards.

Now it didn’t matter if she was escorted on walks because she had

guards.

Yoo Byung-jin had discovered Seo-yoon's presence while watching Lee Hyun.

"She is Lee Hyun's girlfriend. Beautiful. So pretty that she might become the target of a crime..."

-The likelihood of a crime is 94.7282%.

"Isn't the security in South Korea good enough? It is much better than other countries."

-With her looks, it would be a 98% chance of a crime in other countries.

Even the police and the country's security force would be drawn in by her looks.

When she walked around, the people and traffic were paralyzed because they were staring at her.

It wasn't an exaggeration to say that her beauty would cause a country to collapse in the past.

"It isn't good to leave this situation unchecked. I don't want to watch that child be sad.

Even Yoo Byung-jin didn't want to see Seo-yoon cry.

While watching Weed's adventures in Royal Road, he had seen Seo-yoon crying as her heart was melted.

The clear tears flowing down Seo-yoon's face was an incredibly beautiful moment.

If Yoo Byung-jin was younger then he might have devoted everything to her. Royal Road or the wealth that could shake the world didn't matter.

As he watched Seo-yoon for a while, he realized that her insides were beautiful as well.

"Lee Hyun might be ugly but he is blessed with a woman like that. I would like to watch their children."

-Do you want to hire some bodyguards?

“Grade A or above guards.”

As well as grade A guards, the satellites and surveillance systems were used to prevent anything dangerous from happening.

Of course, there were more than 10 androids mobilized in that area to improve security.

-All evidence for criminals within a 50km radius has been secured. It will take approximately a week for the police to sweep up all of them.

After the area was cleaned, Yoo Byung-jin ordered the androids to secretly monitor it.

Lee Hyun reached the side of the road and asked.

“Where do you want to go? The cinema or the mall? Do you want winter clothes?”

“I don’t want to see a movie. Or buy clothes... I want to go to the market.”

“Is there anything you would like to eat?”

“Crab!”

“Um. Crab is a little expensive... The price of seafood doesn’t matter. No, these days I am receiving a lot of money from the broadcasting stations.”

Seo-yoon and Lee Hyun couldn’t spend much time together like this because important events were occurring in Royal Road.

For today’s date, they agreed to buy crab at the market and then make a stew at home.

Lee Hyun went to a seafood store he had been going to for 5 years and the middle aged employee said to Seo-yoon.

“A precious girl like you doesn’t match him... Young lady, there are many men in this wide world.”

“No. It is okay.”

“I am just worried... If he has grabbed onto a weakness then I will report

it to the police.”

This was the 297th time Seo-yoon had received this offer.

Most of the people in the neighbourhood encouraged her to report at least once.

*

Lee Hyun connected to Royal Road where the festival at Puhol Fortress was still ongoing.

“Hahahat! Drink, drink. Drink it all.”

“Uhhh, take it. I love grass porridge thickened with alcohol. My stomach can’t eat anymore. Perhaps I should let the grass porridge settle?”

“You don’t have to seriously worry about the dungeons. It is a dark and lonely place but... It also has a cozy feeling. You should go at least once.”

Even though it was daytime, the northern users were still celebrating.

In Royal Road time, it had been 3 days since the battle ended but people still remained in the area.

The walls were broken and the ground cracked.

There was an eating and drinking atmosphere everywhere.

Weed had a rotten smile on his face.

“Good.”

A tough battle had ended with victory so the northern users deserved to play.

Some users who died in battle came back and shared the mood of others. A two day festival was scheduled after they revived.

“I will earn quite a bit of money.”

Of course, the alcohol and food for the festival were sold by merchants so Mapan made quite a profit.

Merchants were the busiest before and after a war.

Weed relied on Mapan but he still had a slight relationship with other merchants. The Money Mine Company, King Crab Shipping Company, Turtle Trading Company, etc.

Weed knew how to make more money because of his life experience.

He maintained a low tax rate but he found merchants where he could rake in some profit.

The so-called godfather of the underground economy!

However, not all the users at Puhol Fortress were playing.

“Looking for a priest eager to save people. Let’s go hunting together!”

“I am a shield warrior, please take me. Level 256. I have focused on raising the resilience of my body.”

The high level or diligent users left for hunting and adventuring in the area.

“Now, an underground exploration. We’re off!”

10~20 users could be seen playing in the tunnels that Squashy Wiggler made.

“Push as hard as possible.”

“Kkung!”

Some users were getting into mischief by rolling stones along the walls.

A lot of money and effort would be required to restore the broken walls, defense towers and inner roads of Puhol Fortress.

Weed lacked experience as an architect but he could still guess the status of Puhol Fortress.

“It will take millions of gold to restore this place. Of course, there is no reason to spend money on a fortress if there is no war.”

A military fortress would increase the training of soldiers and boost their morale. Maintaining large military facilities were essential to stopping enemy invasions.

Weed shook his head.

“Restoration is too costly. And it isn’t possible to defend the Arpen Kingdom from here.”

Even if Puhol Fortress was kept, the Haven Empire could use different routes to destroy the kingdom.

“Repairs aren’t possible so I need to change the direction... Should I keep it as ruins and sell souvenirs?”

Weed wanted to change the use of the fortress.

A war memorial would only receive petty cash. A pile of stones was just tacky unless the battle took place decades or hundreds of years ago.

Making flimsy tourist attractions would just result in a steady loss.

Weed thought that it was the wrong investment.

“If the facilities are left untouched... It might turn into a den of monsters.”

Monsters lived in ruins or abandoned buildings.

The scale of Puhol Fortress meant there would be hundreds of monsters.

A good hunting ground would be created but that could also be a poison. The monsters released in Puhol Fortress wouldn’t just stay in one place. The boss level monsters among them would wander the kingdom, worsening security.

“The cost of demolition will be enormous. I also can’t charge the Hermes Guild.”

Weed was in the midst of watching users dropping stones or breaking buildings.

‘Fixing everything will take money. Homeowners also wouldn’t want messy houses like these.’

Then he suddenly had an idea.

“Can I take advantage of sculpting here? I can use them as raw materials in sculpting and sell the pieces at an expensive price.”

A deep rooted bias against sculpting!

Carving a few wooden blocks would only give him a few gold.

‘The money disappears once it leaves my hand. But there will definitely be a way to earn money from the fortress. Concentrate, think. There were a number of tricks that could be used. Success and failure in life need to be found on its own.’

He looked at Puhol Fortress again from the viewpoint of a sculptor.

He had 1% left before becoming the long-awaited sculpting master. It was at the last step but it really wasn't easy to raise it through half-hearted works.

After mastering swordsmanship in the desert, Weed's base damage had increased by 500%. The power of the attack skills improved and the range increased. The effect of swordsmanship as well as his defense increased when he mastered it.

The Class Master Quests took a long time so there should be substantial compensation.

“The problem is there is a chance Bardray will also become a master swordsman. He is probably further ahead in the class skills.”

Weed had watched Bardray's battles in the Hall of Fame as well as news about him on the broadcasting stations.

Bardray led the army to sweep up the rebels in the Haven Empire. Of course, he also didn't miss dungeon hunting and pioneering new places.

Other users admired his efficiency but Weed had a rough idea of his skills.

“His level is certainly in the mid-500s. And his swordsmanship is a little lower than I thought. He has an outstanding ability to use several skills at the same time to great effect.”

Sword Awakening, Power of Birth, Black Knight's Strike and Summon Another Sword. Bardray's skills were wonderful but it was weaker than when Weed was ruler of the desert.

“On average, it should be around advanced level 4.”

Bardray’s skill proficiency was relatively low but that wasn’t a critical problem for him.

His skill proficiencies would continue to grow and he could receive rewards and accumulate stats from hunting and completing quests.

“I need to become a sculpting master. This sculpture will help me earn money as well as master it.”

He needed to break through the last step.

The final secret technique Time Sculpting had managed to reach intermediate level. He could create a Museum of Time just once.

He also had the helium from the dragon quest. It wasn’t good to use in a sculpture but it would be a waste to leave it unused.

If Weed mastered his class then there would be many benefits as well as improvements in the related skills.

“I should invest everything.”

Weed’s eyes once again looked at Puhol Fortress.

Right now, Puhol Fortress was just a ruin that ate a lot of money.

However, there was no reason to restore it to normal.

“It might not work as a military fortress but it is a place with convenient traffic and many people know about it... Should I go into the culture and commerce area?”

He decided to make Puhol Fortress into a sculpture. This space would be changed after getting rid of the people.

“The problem with a sculpture made of ruins is that the value will drop if a piece of stone falls. How can I throw away money?”

Weed recalled the big money making opportunity he missed.

“Before the battle at Puhol Fortress... I was trying to develop luxury villas near the river. Time was too short so I had to sadly give up on that plan. If I drag water through here then I can sell villas.”

He had planned to half submerge Puhol Fortress in water and then sell luxury villas in the area.

The unique scenery of Puhol Fortress would attract tourists and generate revenue.

“P-perhaps...”

A scene came to Weed’s mind.

Magnificent natural sculptures that acted as large rides. If he changed Puhol Fortress into a lake then he could create many facilities for users.

It was possible to go swimming on land!

“A-a water theme park of my dreams!”

In the Korean summers, many people went to beaches and water parks.

Families or lovers moved as units and it was a place that ripped off people.

“It is possible to have expensive admission fees, sale of goods and parking fees.”

There would be an entry fee per person as well as parking for carriages and other means of transportation.

Food and accommodation would also be provided. Fancy, overpriced facilities!

In the north of the Versailles Continent, there were few popular tourist destinations. The users invested in equipment or a house.

If he made a water park here, millions of people would come flooding.

“The whole area will be submerged in water and hundreds of thousands of people can enter!”

A water park redevelopment project that surpassed the limits!

If 200,000 people came daily and paid 10 gold then it would be a profit of millions.

Puhol Fortress would be turned into a natural water park so the

maintenance costs wouldn't be that high.

“Once it is created, the commercial facilities will be crazy. Clothes, food, souvenirs... They will be sold out.”

Weed thought that he was stupid.

In today's world, he never made money like a rich person.

“I concentrated on the old-fashioned way of raising taxes. I just recklessly spent the money collected.”

He needed something that steadily made money.

The northern users could make him money by eating, playing and dressing up.

The Arpen Kingdom was receiving 20~30 million gold in tax revenue. If this water park business went well, it could increase by a few times.

There was the overpriced admission fee, villas and taxes on commercial facilities.

A fantastic revenue set!

“I can't slow down. I have to start right away. This is more important than the war with the Haven Empire.”

Excitement flowed through Weed's body.

The redevelopment plan to turn Puhol Fortress into a commercial property had now begun.

“Summon Sculpture!”

He immediately summoned his sculptural lifeforms.

They were creatures who could exert their strength on the land like Yellowy, King Hydra and Cerberus!

A bright light shone as they were forcibly summoned.

Chapter 4: The North's Largest Construction

Ummoooooo!

Yellowy pulled a large plow and dug at the land.

The warrior Gernika, Vindex, Seville etc., had picked up shovels and were digging the earth.

It was the grand plan to direct the Miros River to Fort Puhol!

Goldman, Golden Bird and Silver Bird helped to split apart the rocks while the wyverns carried bundles.

“Kuweeek!”

The wyverns were carrying bundles of sand.

All the sculptural lifeforms had been mobilized to work.

Death Worm and the King Hydra were changing the flow of the river by pouring enormous amounts of soil and stones into the river.

The sculptural lifeforms were being used as construction workers.

“As you can now see, Weed is orchestrating something. I wonder what his plan is?”

“Weed's subordinates have emerged after the battle. Looking at this video from an avian, it seems like they are trying to change the direction of Miros River towards Puhol Fortress.”

The stations delivered the news in real time.

The bulletin boards that became quiet after the battle at Puhol Fortress heated up again.

-What is it? What is going on?

-I wonder if another battle will take place at Puhol Fortress. Is he digging waterways in preparation for a future battle with the Haven Empire?

-The amount of water seems too large to building a waterway near the fortress.

-I have been a builder for 21 years. That construction is on a national level. A minimum of billions of won would be required.

Weed's work attracted the attention of the viewers and broadcasting stations, so the connection rate to Royal Road increased.

The northern users celebrating at Puhol Fortress were surprised to hear the news.

“Hey, he really is working.”

“It seems like they are digging a lot of land.”

Death Worm was digging up a lot of earth while the King Hydra was pushing it. The dirt was piled up like a mountain!

At that moment, a message window simultaneously popped up in front of all northern users.

Ddiring!

-Miros River Construction Site

King Weed of the Arpen Kingdom is planning a huge civil engineering project.

Create a new waterway from Miros River to Puhol Fortress!

Those who take part in the kingdom's civil engineering project will be given public achievements in correspondence with their work.

Level of Difficulty: Kingdom Quest.

Compensation: National achievement, fame.

Quest Restrictions: Limited to those who belong to the Arpen Kingdom.

Murderers are unable to participate.

Limited to 5 million people.

The northern users were surprised as they saw the contents of the message window.

“5 million people can participate in a kingdom quest?”

“Ah, I should do it. I have been bored since there are no Grand Buildings being created. My whole body has become muscular after all that labour.”

“The construction of the statue comes to mind.”

“Achievements in the Arpen Kingdom... It is important to be active in the north. Should I dig the ground or carry the soil?”

Those who started in the Arpen Kingdom had some experience with labour.

It was difficult work if they did it alone, but hundreds of thousands of people participated!

“I am tired of drinking and playing. It would be good to sweat a little bit. Such things are precious in life...”

“Huhu. Let’s build up some achievements.”

Ddiring!

-There are 83,190 construction workers gathered at Miros River.

After a few seconds.

-There are 893,192 construction workers gathered at Miros River.

By that evening, 5 million people had registered.

There were many users who survived the war, and a lot of them were only drinking and eating at Puhol Fortress.

“Let’s go.”

“Let’s go!”

“But I have no equipment... Don’t I need a shovel or a cart?”

Mysterious things often happened in the Arpen Kingdom.

Once certain goods were needed, a trading company would appear like ghosts.

“Mapan’s trading company has come quickly. We are selling pickaxes and bull-drawn wagons for a cheap price. The volume is limited so come

quickly! Please note that exchanges, repair requests or refunds are not permitted.”

The price of a pickaxe was 30 silver and the wagon was 20 gold!

The selling price was 40 times that of stores in Morata. It was a rip off but users bought it without complaints.

They instantly ran out of stock despite many people waiting in line.

After a while, Mapan’s trading company would start selling the pickaxes and wagons again.

“We hastily bought some additional volume. A lot of money was given to middle-tier companies so this is the lowest I can sell it at. One pickaxe for 56 silver, a wagon is 35 gold!”

The stock ran out a 2nd, 3rd and 4th time as they kept raising prices!

At first, the users thought it was expensive but they took the price raise for granted due to lack of stock.

Of course, this was all occurring in accordance to Weed and Mapan’s plan.

“In the first and second sales, only sell 5% of the stock. After raising the prices, sell a whole bunch.”

“As expected from Weed-nim. I still have many things to learn as a merchant. But won’t I be cursed at if I keep selling? The image of Mapan’s trading company is also important if I want to continue doing business.”

“After selling half of it, give it to the middlemen. Once enough of them are sold, the price of the pickaxes and wagons will naturally increase. They will eat it instead of cursing.”

“It really is Weed-nim!”

“Politics is like this.”

The two people colluded to rip off the users participating in the kingdom quest.

The northern users diligently dug at the soil.

They had a special affection for this after completing a Grand Building.

The broadcasting stations also covered the labour, despite the heat.

Someone who had worked on the Rosenheim Kingdom's pyramid with Weed said.

“One person is killed and that person is a murderer. Then why is someone called a hero for killing millions of people? It is the same with labour. Creating a big thing is really rewarding. A bit of hard work can build something. There is no task that doesn't require diligence. Of course, I have a month's worth of laundry piled up but here I am diligent. It is really miraculous.”

Among the northern users, there were many people connected to Royal Road who worked diligently.

It was because they had firsthand experience with Grand Buildings and urban construction.

They moved their hands and feet and did what was required.

Weed had numerous achievements as a sculptor so they were proud just participating in his quest.

Weed made the people withdraw from Puhol Fortress.

“I have to create the popular sculpture.”

He intended to use Nature Sculpting for water based rides.

They were large sculptures that people could touch and play on, instead of just watching.

The problem was that Weed had never gone to a water park.

He only saw the people playing on the news.

“I wonder. How can I create fun rides that people will pay an admission fee for every day?”

Numerous residents and users watched him work.

“Weed, the God of War!”

“Kya. It is the first time I’ve seen the real thing. I need to brag to my friends.”

“But I wouldn’t have known him if I passed him in the street.”

“Yes. It is normal to forget after looking away for a while.”

The gathered crowd surpassed that of a popular celebrity by hundreds of times!

Normally Weed was doing business in the square but now the crowd didn’t want to disturb him.

Thousands of avian users were watching from the sky.

Weed nodded after a while.

“I roughly know what a water park feels like.”

When he saw it on the television, there was a water slide from a high up place.

He had also experienced water slides through Kendellev in the dwarven city of Kuroso.

He remembered learning Elemental Sculpting after watching Kendellev’s natural sculptures.

“When I saw it on television, the screaming women and children were very happy.”

Weed use Nature Sculpting. Water rising from underground became sculpting material.

There was no specific difficulties in getting it to retain its shape.

“Kendellev’s slide was fun but it was too low. It needs to be higher to make up for the expensive price.”

Experience and imagination were important. Of course, the entire landscape needed to be considered as well.

An amusement park needed to be something beautiful and fun so that

visitors would easily open their wallets!

It was possible with Weed's art stat.

He made a water slide that was 600 metres high and linked the water to it.

It wasn't just a simple slide!

There was a water dragon that referenced Bingryong!

The whole body was a slide while the head and tail were the places where the water came down.

Weed was able to work on it with the help of Light Wings.

"Ohhhh! Fabulous."

"That is Weed-nim's sculpture."

"Unbelievably fast. It is marvelous how such a rough work could turn into that."

"It is all about experience."

"Perhaps he is making rides for all of us. Shining in the sun..."

The crowd grew over time and there were already a few million.

It was like Weed was holding a concert.

"Good. I don't need to promote it separately."

After the battle of Puhol Fortress, the broadcasting stations competed over Weed's new sculpture.

It was only a matter of time until this emerged as a new attraction for the northern users.

It took approximately 10 hours to make a water slide that was 650 metres tall.

His meals were easily resolved with barley bread and he didn't take a break.

"There is so much to do. Now I need to make money, not play."

It was like finding money on the ground or scratching the lottery card!

His sculpting skill was close to master level and his art stat high enough that the scale of the water sculpture didn't matter.

They would slide down the dragon's back and it would suddenly twist around like a rollercoaster.

There was a section where five heels rotated diagonally within the body of the dragon.

"I think this feels like an amusement park."

He used Kendelle's water sculptures as references.

There was a slippery part in the middle where birds of water would come flying, as well as a part where they would pass through a rainbow that was a sculpture of light.

They were able to pass through beautiful fountains and small tunnels of rain.

"The appearance seems plausible but I feel some unease... I have never gone on even one ride."

-Please set the name of the new sculpture.

"The Dragon Slide. Calling it a dragon makes it seem expensive. It is perfect for ripping people off."

-Dragon Slide is correct?

"That's right."

-Masterpiece! Dragon Slide has been completed!

Sculpting combined with nature has once again created a great work.

The purpose of this magnificent dragon sculpture seems to be a facility to play on.

The nature spirits and majestic dragon will give pleasure to many creatures.

Of course, it is so large that some will dislike it.

Artistic Value: 8,280.

Special Options:

Anyone who sees Dragon Slide will have their health and mana recovery increased by 36% for three days.

- Affinity to water has permanently increased by 0.4%.
- There will be more rain in this area.
- Maximum vitality +15%. All stats will increase by 21.
- The emergence rate of monsters will reduce by 21%.
- Dragons who discover this sculpture will become hostile.

Current number of Masterpieces created: 29

- The skill proficiency of Sculpting has improved.
- Fame has increased by 451.
- Perseverance has increased by 2.
- Strength has increased by 1.
- Art has increased by 1.
- Maximum health has increased by 150.
- All stats will gain an additional 3 points for making a Masterpiece sculpture.
- The skill proficiency of Time Sculpting has improved.
- Affinity to Nature has increased by 14.

“A good start.”

Weed's sculpting proficiency increased by 0.1%.

It was a masterpiece sculpture and he still hadn't used the helium and Museum of Time.

“Only 0.9% remains until the end.”

Weed only thought about mastering sculpting for a moment before turning his mind to earning money from the water park.

“This big dragon slide will make money and there will be other small rides. The best rides will raise awareness of the water park.”

He imagined thousands of people standing in line and paying for the services.

On weekends, a parking war would take place among the bull and horse users.

“The avians can just fly in. Will they pay the admission fee?”

Weed was very worried about the avians not paying any money.

The solution was simple.

“I will post magicians and archers. They will shoot anything that flies in the sky.”

This was the truth of life.

In the meantime, the reaction of the crowd was very hot.

“Kuwaaaah. Amazing. I’ve never seen a slide of that scale before.”

“That is a ridiculous size. It seems like the sculpture is a facility for fun.”

“Is this a reward for our hard work against the Haven Empire?”

“Of course. I don’t know Weed-nim but making it for money... Absolutely not.”

“Isn’t he a miser? I always thought that.”

“Never. He invested all his money in the Northern Continent and even lowered taxes for us. How can you not know this?”

“Even now, he is too embarrassed to say thank you so he is making this for us.”

The response of the crowd was very favourable.

As king of the Arpen Kingdom, he had a lot of authority.

Even if Weed wanted to become the ruler of the Northern Continent, it would be hard to find anyone protesting.

Nevertheless, he always treated the northern users humbly. Only selling sculptures for 1 gold and never losing his service oriented spirit!

At that moment, someone in the crowd shouted.

“Excuse me! Can we really ride the Dragon Slide?”

Although it might be a ride, it was questionable because it could damage the sculpture.

Weed loudly replied.

“Of course. I made it so that people will ride it.”

“We can ride it?”

“Yes.”

“Hooray! Let’s make a line.”

A line immediately formed behind the Dragon Slide. It didn’t seem to end. The long line circled Puhol Fortress and extended beyond the plains.

Weed was on the spiral staircase of the slide to greet the customers directly.

“Weed-nim. I am a user called Soft Tofu from Morata. Do you remember?”

“...”

Weed searched through his memories.

His friends, seniors, juniors and customers were stored in a vast area.

“Didn’t you buy a fox statue for 7 gold last time?”

“That’s right. You remembered. I even belong to the Arpen Kingdom’s army. I’ve engaged in combat. However, I died three times.”

“Huhuhu.”

“But I heard that you sold sculptures for 1 gold.”

“It was a premium fox sculpture that I sold to you.”

“The tail fell off that evening. There are witnesses.”

“ ... ”

Weed couldn't think of anything to say. However, sculptures already sold couldn't be exchanged or given refunds.

That was the basic principle of an unscrupulous merchant!

“The water slide is 7 gold, but I will only accept 3 gold from you.”

“I also need to pay for this?”

“Of course.”

“Still, that is a large discount.”

“It is special treatment.”

“Thank you. I am your lifelong fan.”

Soft Tofu easily handed over 3 gold.

There were too many users waiting in line so he couldn't waste any more time.

Besides, this was the large sculpture that Weed had diligently created.

Soft Tofu paid 3 gold and sat on the dragon's head.

“This is an honour... I will remember this day until I die.”

“I am always thankful to Soft Tofu-nim.”

“So I'll be departing.”

It was a water sculpture so water was always flowing.

Soft Tofu vigorously slid down.

“Yay!”

He opened his arms wide and screamed with joy.

Approximately 3 seconds later, Weed and Soft Tofu realized something at the same time.

‘Too fast.’

‘Fast.’

Water was steeply flowing from the dragon's head.

Soft Tofu slid down the water at a horrific speed. He was briefly stunned as he rose 40 metres in the air at a bend.

“Aaaack!”

Fortunately, he didn't fly off but dropped once again onto the water slide. However, there was a tremendous acceleration along the flowing water.

“Not so fast!”

Soft Tofu tried to grab onto something but he couldn't.

It was sculpted smoothly so he had no luck.

In fact, there were no safety devices at all due to the cost and preserving the beauty of the work.

Soft Tofu accelerated and rotated like it was a roller coaster. He fell down from the sky and bounced back and forth on the slide.

“Hukeeek!”

Finally, it was the wild fun zone!

He passed through a section that consisted of puddles of water.

“There it is! A special fun place!”

Weed's intention was a place where something like water skiing was possible.

“Kuweek! Kwaaeeek!”

In reality, Soft Tofu head was pushed into the water and he was repelled by the repulsive force.

“Save meeeee!”

At that time, birds made from water came flying at Soft Tofu's face.

“Kueok!”

A facial blow!

-Health has decreased by 541.

Fortunately, their speed was a little bit slow. After passing through the rainbow made from Moonlight Sculpting, Soft Tofu reached the second stage.

The dragon was built to be able to jump between the centre of the structure he created.

“Please let me out!”

Soft Tofu was in the air for a while before landing on the opposite side.

His facing forward position had long been broken. Now he was rolling forwards and sometimes backwards.

It became a hell slide in one minute!

Soft Tofu almost died as he emerged from the bottom of the dragon.

“Hahahak!”

Soft Tofu’s body shook as he landed on the ground.

The watching crowd was sweating.

“It finally finished.”

“Isn’t the ride too severe? Is he dead?”

“It looks like fun. I will risk my life to ride it.”

Weed had an awkward expression.

When he watched it on television, he heard people’s impression of the rides.

“I didn’t really think at the time. It is really fun!”

The expensive price was reasonable. That’s why they didn’t mind giving their money.

Therefore, he had set up a secret device.

“Maybe it will work?”

If it wasn’t broken then it would work nicely.

Soon a stream of water rose from underneath Soft Tofu into the sky.

Soft Tofu's body floated due to the pressure of the water.

He once again entered the middle part of the dragon's body. It was the beginning of the best slope and rotation segment.

"N-no! I would rather you kill me."

An expression of deep despair filled Soft Tofu's face.

Weed ignored him and said to the next customer.

"I guess there is still a bit of trial and error."

"Just a little bit?"

"There might be some customers who feel uncomfortable. Just like not everyone likes tteokbokki. From now on, I will only charge one gold."

Thanks to Soft Tofu's sacrifice, the price of the Dragon Slide was determined to be one gold.

*Please note.

This ride has a small risk, so there will be no refund even if you are afraid of heights or water.

*

Weed used the water from Miros River to create a large number of water sculptures at Puhol Fortress.

It consisted of water sculptures, commemorative sets of the orc Karichwi and things from his adventures.

The sculptures were like Weed's biography.

"I need to maximize the real estate prices here."

The Arpen Kingdom was still developing but people couldn't help feeling worried.

The atmosphere had completely changed at the broadcasting stations.

There was a discussion talking about the Arpen Kingdom's crisis.

-The battle was won but... The greatest weakness of the Arpen Kingdom has continued to be revealed. They have too much reliance on users.

-Isn't it good that the northern users are tightly bound together?

-It will become different in the future. The Haven Empire's policy has changed.

The Haven Empire has settled the rebellions thanks to policies such as tax cuts and the free admission fees.

The users of the Central Continent have lost the reason to leave their hometown and come to the north.

The Arpen Kingdom has a free and pioneering spirit but the long journey is uncomfortable.

Of course, there are still players with unpleasant feelings towards the Hermes Guild. However, the influx of people to the north has been cut in half.

New users are the main axis of the Arpen Kingdom but the numbers starting in the Central Continent has risen by 40%.

There are many reasons to live in the Haven Empire, including numerous developed cities, stable trading, hunting grounds, guilds and stores.

The impetus for new users to start in the Arpen Kingdom has been greatly reduced, making it certain that the miraculous growth rate of the north will fall.

-The users of the Arpen Kingdom will think this as well. There is no need to absolutely follow King Weed.

-I don't think the support up to now will change.

-Yes, of course. There is a great affection for the Arpen Kingdom so they are unwilling to invade. But there is the possibility that many will scatter to the Haven Empire.

The northern army. Now the northern users might not gather to conquer the Haven Empire.

In other words, the northern users would play the role of defense but it would be difficult to incite them to attack.

The Hermes Guild lowering the taxes had controlled the rebels and blocked one third of the northern users' mentality.

-But things aren't that simple. Who is the king of the Arpen Kingdom? Weed, the God of War. It is possible that he will show a miracle that goes against common sense.

-Weed might be able to galvanize the users with a speech. Maybe his great eloquence will lead the northern users to invade the Haven Empire. However, such behavior will cause reactions in the future.

-What reactions?

-The Hermes Guild will use all their strength to fight and if the north loses the war, it will be hard for them to stand up again. Weed's leadership will suffer a big blow. The crowd that would gather if the Haven Empire invades will be reduced.

-What if they win?

-An invasion isn't easy. If it doesn't end at once... The northern users will decrease with every battle and how long will the weary soldiers be able to fight? In the end, it is likely to get worse.

It had only been a few days since the victory at Puhol Fortress but there were already negative reports about the Arpen Kingdom.

Weed watched similar stories on the news until he lost interest.

"The Hermes Guild is guiding public opinion."

It was easy for the Hermes Guild to bribe users to talk about the Central Continent's dominance.

Wars on the Versailles Continent wasn't only won through military force.

The Hermes Guild wanted to neutralize the northern users' effectiveness.

“It might be that way but... The Hermes Guild is also affected. Many people are aiming for them.”

The myth of the Hermes Guild was already cracked.

Weed had broken the Haven Empire in an ordinary way.

A large picture had already been drawn all over the Versailles Continent.

“The Hermes Guild has learnt one thing from failure. A dictatorship is needed after completely conquering the continent.”

A corrupt ruler’s dream!

*

The dwarf Fabio was challenging to become a master blacksmith.

He was producing numerous weapons and equipment for the Hermes Guild when he received a whisper.

-Weed: Hello.

“It has been a while. Have you been doing well?”

Fabio welcomed him happily.

He built up a considerable relationship in the dwarf kingdom Thor.

Despite his relationship with the Hermes Guild, he had no qualms about keeping in touch with Weed.

Even if his goal wasn’t to conquer the continent, he had large ambition as a blacksmith.

“It has been almost a year since our last contact. Sometimes you blocked me when I tried to talk.”

-Weed: Has it already been that long?

“Last time I contacted you was to brag about an armour I made.”

-Weed: The world is like that. The equipment created by Fabio made the Hermes Guild stronger.

“Yes. But I know that you sold a lot of equipment this time.”

Weed had sold Fabio's weapons and armour at the auction.

It was fine as long as they weren't passed directly from Fabio's hands.

They were loot obtained from hunting the Hermes Guild users in the north.

There would be a high price competition every time an item appeared at auction.

It was Fabio's work and something that a Hermes Guild user wore.

In the past, it was a sin just to take an equipment that the Hermes Guild user had lost. It was natural since they had tight control over the Central Continent.

Now, the Hermes Guild couldn't act like that because they had to consider the reaction of users.

Of course, the northern users boasted of having them, even if the equipment couldn't be used yet.

-Weed: They sold for a more expensive price than I thought. I am receiving a lot of help from Fabio's popularity and abilities.

"It's not the way I wanted but I'm glad you are satisfied."

-Weed: I still have a psychological shock from buying the 200 won more expensive salt.

"Hmm hmm. What is your purpose in contacting me this time?"

Fabio asked with interest.

He didn't believe that Weed was 100% as innocent as he appeared on the broadcasts.

He had no interest in the northern war but he was aware of Weed's nature.

'I know that he isn't afraid of dishonourable methods. He might contact me for a ridiculous request.'

So far, he never asked Fabio to stop helping the Hermes Guild or to come to the north.

Weed had definitely contacted him for some blacksmith advice or a deal.

-Weed: Have you ever heard of helium?

“Helium!”

God’s metal, a source of pure mana.

Fabio was a blacksmith so he had naturally heard of the material before.

He swallowed his saliva and quickly spoke.

“I won’t ask how you know about helium. That doesn’t matter. Do you have some now?”

-Weed: Of course.

“A-amazing.”

-Weed: Huhuhu.

“I’m envious. Sincerely.”

At first glance, it would be a waste to use helium for a sculpture.

Fabio had respect for Weed’s job so he didn’t say it.

“Did you contact me just to inform me that you obtained helium?”

-Weed: I can’t eat all the expensive barley bread by myself. I would like to receive Fabio’s help with the helium...

“If I can help... Tell me the specifics.”

-Weed: Refining and making something out of the helium.

“Refining is a basic method required to process the material but... Are you making a sword or armour?”

-Weed: Of course.

‘Making something with helium.’

Fabio made a decision in his heart.

He had to accept the collaboration at any cost.

As a blacksmith, he had 0.4% left in his proficiency.

Despite making tens of thousands of swords and armour, the final proficiency percentages didn't climb.

'Something is strange. Why can't I reach master level?'

He had made enough weapons and armour.

He judged that it wasn't something as simple as making more.

Maybe it was because he hadn't touched the best materials such as helium.

He had seen Weed mastering swordsmanship during his quest.

He mastered the skill through repeated hunting as well as struggling against the strongest monsters.

It felt like he couldn't achieve master level by simply sitting here and producing good quality work.

Fabio quickly made a deal.

"What do you want? I will give you everything I can."

-Weed: I intend to make a sword with the helium. Come to where I am and help me make it.

"Do you mean the Arpen Kingdom?"

-Weed: Yes. I want pay the necessary costs for your help making me the best weapon out of helium.

Fabio was the continent's leading blacksmith.

He was satisfied with this much.

"Is that really it?"

-Weed: My equipment isn't free. I have some blacksmith materials from the Hermes Guild that I want you to process for me.

"I understand. Please don't hand it over to anyone else."

It would take a long time to get to the north so Fabio immediately prepared for travelling.

It was a situation where he thought he might be able to become a master.

Weed also contacted Herman.

He was an excellent blacksmith who liked to make swords. It wouldn't be long until he reached the master level.

-Weed: I am creating a sword out of helium. Please come and help me.

"I understand. I'll be right there"

Herman also quit his job and headed towards Puhol Fortress where Weed was.

Chapter 5: Puhol Water Park

At Puhol Fortress, water rides made of nature sculptures formed.

In order to check their safety, the sacrifices of the Toadstool Porridge unit were necessary.

“I am part of the 13th Toadstool Porridge unit. It is a glory to be able to go on Weed-nim’s... Aaaack!”

There was an active cooperation with the elves to plant flowers and trees.

“I am Spuniker. I chose the elf species.”

A level 480 user, he was well known among the elves and posted many articles for beginners.

Elves who read Spuniker’s articles realized that it had a wide variety of information.

“The seed of the elder tree is necessary for the birth of the forest. The north has sacrificed a lot so there is no need to explain. I will give you this.”

Weed had a strange expression.

“Is this real?”

“Huh?”

“These days, there are many fakes in the world...”

“ ... ”

The seed of the elder tree was planted at Puhol Fortress and a huge tree grew.

The large tree spread out over 200 metres and had thousands of branches coming from it. It was a magnificent tree that could enhance the aura of the elves and improve their natural power.

“Huhut. It really is an elder tree. Then...”

Spuniker thought he had done a great job for the north and tried to

leave.

Weed, numerous people and the broadcasting stations had seen it so he had achieved his purpose of raising awareness.

But Weed jumped onto an idea.

A market that had been profitable for 30 years had approached him so Weed swallowed his saliva.

Of course, the Arpen Kingdom would also profit.

Weed grabbed Spuniker.

“Wait a minute.”

“Huh?”

“Don’t elves love trees?”

“We love it. Green trees are a source of pleasure and pride for elves.”

Spuniker recited words that might as well be dialogue from a script. He was apparently conscious of the viewers.

“There aren’t many trees here due to the war.”

“It is too bad.”

If he knew Weed well, he would have noticed the danger signals.

Without being aware of the creeping situation, Spuniker only paid attention to the viewers.

“If elves plant trees here then I think the users will really appreciate it.”

“Of course. I am willing to do such a thing. How many trees do you want me to plant?”

“5,000 trees.”

“Huh?”

“It should be dense with trees. 5,000 trees.”

“I am a little busy.”

“This wouldn’t be difficult for a true elf. You brought elder seeds for the

north so you can't leave after only planting one.”

Weed made a suggestion but when considering all the viewers, Spuniker had to accept it.

A famous user was sowing seeds and watering them.

Other elves followed him so the landscaping problem of Puhol's Water Park was solved.

“I got skilled workers for free.”

Spuniker willingly brought him seeds and was exploited for labour.

Thanks to the efforts of many people, the waterways connecting Miros River to Puhol Fortress were also being completed.

The users who lost their lives at Puhol Fortress and revived were mobilized to work.

The gathered crowd cheered as Weed made sculptures in Puhol Fortress.

“In order to celebrate our victory and commemorate the joys of the northern people, let's drag the river here. This is all for the water park.”

“W-water park! Ohhhh!”

They had only thought that Weed was making a sculpture and dragging the river was for defense.

But now they were pleased to learn they were wrong.

A water park for the northern users!

“Yes. We should have one of these.”

“That is the real form of a water park.”

“Kyaa! Kill, kill.”

The rejuvenated users bought shovels and run to Miros River.

Despite having no construction equipment, the river was quickly moved just by shoveling.

Merchants had separate discussions with Weed.

The merchants were already keenly watching the situation at Puhol Fortress.

“I know the plan is to have a water park. There should be hotels and villas in a good location overlooking the water park.”

“Give us a chance.”

“I have a great hotel business.”

“We will do anything. Please leave it to us.”

If a water park was created, commercial facilities such as hotels and villas would be actively used.

The northern merchants sold japtem from early on and accumulated a considerable fortune.

The Arpen Kingdom is rapidly developing.

By investing in trade and production facilities in the pioneered north, the merchants could receive enormous returns.

‘The water park plan? This is it. It will definitely be a success. It might become even more than that.’

‘I see money. Customers will definitely wait in line.’

It was important to gain an early location at the water park.

The merchants were financially well off.

It was a profession that could make a lot of money through businesses and trading.

But from the viewpoint of successful merchants, it no longer mattered how much money they made.

If other merchants receive a big chance that they missed, there would be a lot of regret.

Weed looked at them with warm eyes.

“I am both thankful and envious towards the merchants.”

“...?”

“As you know, the Arpen Kingdom was able to grow due to the early movements of the merchants I thank you for that and also feel envy as I watch because I am not a merchant.”

Weed didn't lick his lips and lie. To some extent, his words were the truth.

He felt pain every time a merchant hit the jackpot!

No matter how amazing the adventures or that it was on the news, he felt envious towards those who made money.

Weed spoke softly and the atmosphere was warm. However, he needed to be on guard when it came to money from signing a contract.

“Everyone will receive fair chances. The rights to the hotel business and land sales will be done through auction.”

Merchants attended the auction where hotel business rights, shopping centre business rights and luxury villa rights were sold.

The land sales amount added up to 37 million gold!

In contrast to the rugged wilderness of the Arpen Kingdom, a huge amount of money was robbed from the merchants' pockets.

“This is the joy of real estate.”

He had succeeded in selling previously worthless land.

The merchants thought it was expensive but were happy at the thought of the profits that would be generated.

Of course, Weed was able to laugh heartily.

“I will reap taxes every time food or items are sold in stores.”

A steady tax income was the ultimate profit.

There were numerous ways of squeezing a nation through legitimate means.

The architects who helped in the battle also stayed at Puhol Fortress.

Weed had discussions with the talented architects of the north.

Mibullo and Pavo were also present.

“I heard that you are making a water park.”

Mibullo, the best architect on the continent as well as the north, cautiously said.

It was the first time he met Weed.

As a former architect of the Haven Empire and prestigious guilds, he was nervous about meeting the king of the Arpen Kingdom.

“Yes, of course.”

“A water park needs a variety of buildings. I would like the architects to contribute.”

There were over a dozen Grand Buildings being built in the north but construction was stopped due to the war.

The architects participated in the battle but the Grand Buildings also couldn't be built without the help of the players.

Once peace return to the kingdom, construction was resumed but things like Alkazar Bridge had to be repaired as well.

The architects had a lot to do but they were greedy after hearing the plans for the water park. They couldn't scatter to various construction sites in the Arpen Kingdom just yet.

“If you leave it to us, we will built water park facilities and buildings as beautiful as possible.”

Mibullo nervously said.

He couldn't help wondering how Weed would respond.

At the same time, Weed had several ideas.

‘The price of the structures? I should do it quickly. No. I need to build it properly to save the users' money. The number of users would be reduced due to shoddy construction.’

If the water park was successful, other people might try a similar thing.

The Haven Empire was capable of making it on a larger scale than the Arpen Kingdom.

‘I need to create the best water park, but rapid construction is needed in order to reclaim the funds. To do that, architects are necessary.’

The Grand Buildings and Royal Palace of the Arpen Kingdom were completely quickly due to the calculations of the architects.

“Builders... No, the help of architects are needed. I will tell you about my planned water park.”

Weed opened the sketch of Puhol Water Park and showed it to the architects.

Puhol Fortress and the plains would be turned into commercial facilities, playing facilities and swimming pools.

Along a long road to Miros River, he planned to build restaurants, squares, residential areas, armour stores, weapon stores, grocery stores, various class guilds, amenities and markets.

Mibullo, Pavo and the architects stared at the sketch that Weed drew.

‘I-I don’t know. What is this?’

‘Only green and black things can be seen on the paper. Is this the way an alien would write?’

‘It is related to geometry. Or perhaps a list of mathematical graphs. One thing is for certain, this picture is encrypted.’

The architects found it hard to decipher the sketch.

Weed explained each line.

“This is the Miros River and the waterway that will lead to Puhol Fortress. Commercial facilities will be along here...”

They couldn’t understand the sketch, but were convinced by the explanation. However, the picture would once again become chaotic if they blinked.

Weed pointed to what looked like ants on the water and said.

“Do you see the ships here?”

“Ships?”

“Yes. There will be canoes along the river that users can enjoy. Of course, there will be a fee. There will also be luxury cruises on the Miros River. Travellers will be fond of boat rides to Port Varna. Of course, there should be restaurants on the ships.”

A grand plan to extort a tremendous amount of fees.

Pavo talked after a while.

“But this city plan... The residential area seems to be enormous.”

“That’s right. I plan to build a city. I have already finished the land sales.”

“A resort city next to the water park?”

“Yes. The traffic to this place is very convenient and helpful. And it is close to tourist spots. It has high potential to become a large city.”

Weed’s sketch was complicated for a reason.

If a water park as in the middle of a wasteland then the number of users might be limited.

1st, 2nd, etc. up to 8 mega-cities were planned.

Dawn City was the capital of the Arpen Kingdom but he had plans to build new commercial and resort cities.

Weed believed in it.

‘If the water park succeeds, I won’t need to worry about money. Real estate speculation is a business that won’t fail.’

Reality was a little different from Royal Road.

Compared to leaving their homes or paying off debts, they could leave reality to enjoy Royal Road.

But no matter how good Morata was, people wouldn’t stay in the vicinity for a few years.

The Arpen Kingdom was wide so if they had enough money, people could buy a house in each region.

Even players who started in shacks could upgrade to more spacious and comfortable homes.

Each user could make several purchases so it was likely they would buy homes near Puhol Water Park.

‘1,000 gold will turn to 100,000 and then to 100 million.’

Morata was in the inner area so there was a limit to the number of housing areas.

A true villain needed to think of other ways to line their pockets, not just rely on taxes.

Weed’s idea wasn’t new, but actually based on reality.

Weed’s amazing plan didn’t end here.

“There will be Grand Buildings in Puhol Fortress.”

“Grand Buildings?”

“Nine at the water park. Shouldn’t we build something to make land speculation rise?”

“...”

The architects all had wide eyes. They were filled with disbelief.

Mibullo spoke on behalf of them.

The manpower for constructing Grand Buildings can be met and we can pay for the materials. But how will we raise the money for the cost of construction?”

Concerns about financing!

All projects had a budget.

It wasn’t often that a country tilted due to a massive deficit.

Weed’s response was clear.

“I will earn it from now on.”

*

-Puhol Fortress' Housing Sale!

A new city will be created next to the premier resort in the Arpen Kingdom, Puhol Water Park.

It is a city that will be the hub of traffic and centre of tourism and commerce.

It is a city where time will be stopped, and people could enjoy water, wind, art and fun.

The name of the new city will be called Royal Marina Park.

Nine Grand Buildings will be built in the future and this will be a landmark in the entire Versailles Continent.

The Arpen Kingdom's housing development administration will directly develop new cities.

Hurry to buy a house!

Collateral loans are also available.

Please note.

Nest type apartments for avians in a 49 storey condominium is selling at the best price.

A view overlooking the water park!

Various learning facilities are linked to excellent job opportunities!

You can fly right into the sky after opening the window and there are beds of dry grass in the bedroom.

There living room has a fireplace to dry the wet feathers.

However, there are no stairs inside the apartment.

One million houses are planned.

The houses will be sold at prices ranging from 100 gold to 1 million gold for the mansions.

1% of the sale price is required as down payment and there were be

some constraints.

Of course, mortgage loans through Mapan's bank is possible but 5% interest needs to be paid every month.

"I have no money."

"I'll bet all my money this time. I need a house. That is for me."

"A new city. There is no way yet to earn money so I'm afraid to buy an apartment."

There were some dubious people but 30% of the homes were sold to enthusiastic supporters of the Arpen Kingdom.

The advertising alone provided enough money to build 9 Grand Buildings.

Weed was satisfied despite some of the houses still being unsold.

"The more houses we built, the lower the price will be. The houses will continue to be sold and the prices will rise more after the Grand Buildings come up. At that time, I can sell it at a higher price."

Weed demonstrated his ability to make a large amount of money through land and construction!

The Arpen Kingdom developed in a different direction and it was supplementing its finances at a scary pace.

After 15 days in Royal Road time.

Many things happened in a short amount of time.

The Hermes Guild users in the northern colonies tried to return to the Central Continent. Most players exited safely but some lost their lives. It was because they were exposed by the avians and couldn't escape pursuit.

Bellot was one of the lords in the northern colonies.

Weed's relationship with Bellot was uncomfortable after she accepted the offer from the Hermes Guild.

Pale knew Weed would never forgive her and tried to say something.

“Weed, just hold it in once. Bellot-nim didn’t have any bad intentions.”

“I know.”

“Yes, of course I am aware... Huh?”

Weed looked strangely at Pale.

“I have to distinguish between merits and demerits. Even if we are friendly, isn’t it normal to leave if offered a lot of money?”

“ ... ”

“People should do that. I can’t be righteous when it comes to this. Why refuse when the Hermes Guild offers the position of a lord?”

Weed’s ironclad rule!

He wouldn’t forgive cheap betrayal, but an expensive betrayal was understandable.

When Weed and Bellot had a meeting, their companions included Zephyr, Pale, Irene, Romuna, etc. came along.

“Ohu, I’ve been caught. I didn’t think that Weed-nim would recover the northern colonies so quickly. Will you make me pay more taxes?”

“All you need to do is pay in a timely manner.”

“I am a lord so please come over for a meal.”

“Of course.”

Weed and Bellot were coolly reunited. Despite their relationship, there was no sense of betrayal.

They greeted each other like friends in a bakery.

Rather, his other colleagues felt more betrayed.

‘We’ve known each other for a long time.’

‘Bellot-nim became a lord. What about me?’

Surka frankly asked him if she could become a lord.

“I would like to become a lord. Is that possible?”

Weed was king of the Arpen Kingdom but he couldn't make decisions based on friendship.

This unexpected atmosphere occurred because of Bellot.

“Any spare land. I'll give it to you.”

Weed entrusted areas of the northern colonies to Pale, Zephyr, Romuna and Surka.

‘It will be a little painful in the future.’

If he appointed those he trusted to the position of lord then he count on them.

‘Increase residents and improve productivity. If effort is made then taxes can increase. So far, all of the money collected had been invested.’

It was easy to neglect the villages in the kingdom. On the other hand, having lords could make them develop quickly.

The Arpen Kingdom basically required many lords.

As the population grew and the monster areas shrank, many small villages were created.

Users who contributed to the kingdom could become nobles or lords.

The lords needed to devote themselves to growing the population, ruling the residents, defeating monster invasions and paying attention to trading with merchants.

In addition, rice and barley farming were basic. They had to grow their villages by strategically cultivating agricultural products to be exported and developing mines.

Unlike Morata in the past, large and small villages were developing and flourishing.

It was fun to be lord of a village!

Many people on the bulletin boards were envious of the lords in Royal Road.

High ranking users could fight with monsters but lords have a social

impact.

The construction at Puhol Fortress was over.

Weed made water sculptures to decorate the amusement park.

-Turtle Swimming Pool

Large wooden turtle sculptures can be used as a boat to relax and move.

Of course, a 30 silver entrance fee is required!

Artistic Value: 1,497

-Hippopotamus Creek

A sculpture of hundreds of racing hippos in the creek.

A extreme swimming pool where you can be stunned or drowned by the hippos!

Artistic Value: 2,813

-Elder Tree Water Swing

A place where you can enjoy diving into the water from a 50 metres high elder tree.

Ride the water along the branches and grab the swing.

Artistic Value: 2,291.

-Coral Beach

A deep pool covered with coral from Port Varna.

Various types of fish live in the water and waves are scheduled to occur.

Dive into the water and look at the underwater ecosystem.

Artistic Value: 4,720.

Weed wanted a large aquarium that would require an admission fee, but had to give up that idea.

The blacksmiths and architects cooperated to build the amusement park facilities.

“We can make play facilities.”

Mibullo was a land architect.

He had techniques that could tighten the ground, crack stones or form certain rocks.

He used marble to create the square and placed pretty pebbles at the bottom of the pools.

Puhol Water Park was being completed and connected to Miros River through a waterway.

*

Thousands of users gathered for the official opening of Puhol Water Park.

Over a million people watched as the waterway was connected from Miros River to Puhol Fortress.

This spectacle was usually hard to find.

“Weed, Weed, Weed!”

“Give us the water park!”

The crowd cheered as they watched Weed standing on the river.

Weed had used Sculpture Transformation for today’s event.

A terrible monkfish holding a spear!

Weed normally disliked events but this was the birth of the water park, so he didn’t spare any expenses.

Weed slowly turned and pointed the spear.

A so-called preopening event.

“What? That appearance is ridiculous.”

“What do you mean? I don’t know how to respond.”

The crowd was full of doubts so someone started chanting.

“Water park, water park!”

“Water park!”

Soon the chant was coming from all the users.

The atmosphere was ripe to earn money.

“Water, rise!”

Weed stabbed the spear into the riverbank.

The dam made of sand broke open and the river flowed along the newly opened waterway.

Kwaaaaaaah!

The scene of water flowing could be seen by the crowd.

“Waaaaaaah!”

Water filled the wide channel. It was so powerful that the ground shook like an earthquake was occurring.

The water was muddy from the construction site but it flowed straight to Puhol Fortress.

Of course, Puhol Fortress was too far away to be seen with the naked eye. If the sculptural lifeforms and creatures hadn't cooperated then it wouldn't have been easy.

The waterway flowed through intact mountains and cliffs.

“A-amazing!”

“The real deal. Really.”

The users gathered at the waterway couldn't close their eyes at the magnificent sight.

It was like a miracle created by human efforts.

People digging at the ground with pickaxes made this possible.

Pride bloomed in the hearts of the northern users.

After a long time, the water finally reached Puhol Fortress.

Puhol Fortress and the surrounding plains slowly filled with water.

The water rose up to people's ankles.

“Ah... Water is really rising.”

“Is this really happening? Awesome!”

Hundreds of thousands of users were waiting at Puhol Fortress to pay the entrance fee.

Millions of avians flew along with the flowing water.

“Chirp chirp chirp. Cool.”

“This is the Arpen Kingdom. No one other than Weed-nim could achieve this plan in Royal Road.”

“We also helped. Kaaack!”

It was a wonderful experience that wouldn't disappear from the memories of the users.

The water flowing itself was great but it was created by the people's efforts.

The water level kept rising around the sculptures and users.

It reached their knees and then their waist.

“Kkiyahu!”

From then on, the users started to freely swim.

Many of the facilities at Puhol Fortress were destroyed. They enjoyed diving off walls and towers.

Hundreds of users moved like a swarm of ants in the water.

Users hurried to the entrance to check if it was really filling with water.

Parts of the collapsed walls were crudely turned into the entrance of the water park.

“Here is the entrance fee!”

“Let me enter quickly!”

Although the water park was still unfinished, it was an exciting sight.

A fun experience!

They could go to the river or beaches for swimming on the Versailles Continent but the atmosphere of the water park couldn't be matched.

Users threw themselves into the Miros River and rode along the waterway!

The entrance fee to Puhol Water Park was only one gold. On that day alone, Weed was able to earn 7 million gold.

The tickets continued to be sold until dawn and the food sold gave tremendous benefits.

The chefs in the cafeteria hit the jackpot but the next day's earnings far exceeded the previous one.

Chapter 6: The Day that Time Stopped

Invitation to Puhol's Water Park!

People just enjoyed the water on the first day, but they changed clothes for swimming the next day.

The dress code for men and women gradually became shorter. The people gathered at Puhol Water Park became boldly exposed.

"Ah... There is no place to look. There is too much to see."

The male users watched the beauties walking past in short clothes. Their attention was focused on the elves with slim legs.

The beauties of the Arpen Kingdom were gathered at Puhol Water Park.

"Should I try it once?"

"It will be difficult."

"I won't know until I try it."

Impromptu meetings took place on the spot.

"Excuse me. I am from the 5th Toadstool Porridge unit. Would you like to eat a bowl with me?"

"I am from the Bamboo Shoots unit. I will eat if you don't mind bamboo shoots."

In might be a little cold in reality but Royal Road's joyful atmosphere caused hunting to be a success.

"At this price, I don't need to play at a resort in reality."

"I don't need to get on a plane to fly to Southeast Asia."

He defeated the Haven Empire and then created Puhol Water Park, so Weed continued receiving endless praise.

"I had thought about whether he was taking advantage of the northern users but now I have no more doubts."

"I am the same."

“There was no reason to fight the Haven Empire later. I thought we would be scapegoats in a later war.”

“Yes. Now I know why Weed is revered. If he wasn’t thinking of the users then this water park would never have happened.”

“Let’s call him Saint Weed.”

Appreciation for Weed among the men rose significantly. The female users also liked Weed.

“He is a good king.”

“He had gone through a lot for us.”

“The north is good to live in because there is someone like him. I don’t care about anything other than that.”

“His charm as a man? It is a little... He was a bit charming as the orc Karichwi.”

The northern users were thankful towards Weed.

There was slight disappointment in Weed and the Arpen Kingdom after the battle at Puhol Fortress, but that had disappeared.

As morning and evening passed, Weed and the architects continued construction with many users.

Only the basic form of the water park had been completed so walking paths, rest areas and swimming pools needed to be created.

Weed didn’t take a break from making water and ice sculptures.

The northern users enjoyed swimming, looking at the sculptures, talking with people and hunting nearby. They also participated in the construction of the new city in order to make money.

And the real charm of Puhol Water Park was revealed at night.

“Now, they won’t come every day. But there is a surprise performance from bards.”

“Amazing!”

Professional bard Nollasseu gave a delightful harp and hip hop performance at night!

-Snow in the hot jungle

A leopard came to drink from a frozen lake

Berobero berobero

The lake water is cool! It is delicious!

Two ice leopards are hunting.

Take a step back.

I don't want it tearing at my abdomen.

Nollasseu's instrument playing was good enough to win the competition hosted by the Bard Guild every three months.

However, his lyrics were clearly influenced by Weed. Recently new bards had been influenced by Weed, causing a growing trend of messed up lyrics or pitch.

Anyway, the water park's atmosphere became more heated as exciting music played.

In the spacious wilderness where large squares were scheduled to be built, campfires were lit and log chairs and tables set up.

"Let's do it!"

"Oh yes!"

It was transformed into a nightclub where users danced to exciting music.

Lemon Grass Porridge and Sweet Potato Porridge were sold along with alcohol. Merchants made unbelievable amounts of money from food and alcohol.

As the water park developed, a rich night market opened in the Arpen Kingdom.

The Versailles Continent was shaken once again. The hottest attraction had been created in ruins, literally after a great battle took place.

“The north. To the north!”

“Go quickly. No, I need to bargain for some money first!”

There was a wave of users heading to the north from the Haven Empire.

In fact, the sensibility of modern people was as cold as a refrigerator. They admired the scenery but didn't stop to look at it.

“Whether the Haven Empire conquers the continent or not has nothing to do with me.”

“As long as Royal Road... I don't know. I'm tired of rebellion. Haven't the taxes been lowered?”

“I suffered in the advanced Haven Empire. I just want to live comfortably.”

The water park made the Arpen Kingdom more competitive.

There was no need to hesitate when they could swim during the day and drink beer while enjoying the nightlife.

“Lejyo, I have something to say.”

“I also want to say something.”

“I will start. I have decided to leave Kallamore.”

“Eh? You too?”

“Then... You are going to Puhol Water Park?”

It was enough for some people to leave their hometowns.

Large numbers of people flocked to the north.

The border guards of the Haven Empire stopped them but the users found other ways.

They crossed rivers, went by sea or were flown by avians in the sky.

“I will give you 10 gold if you take me.”

“Chirp chirp. Pay in advance.”

The avians received an income from acting as transportation.

Thus Puhol Water Park became increasingly crowded! One week’s admission fees and taxes exceeded 90 million gold.

Weed was swimming in the profits.

“This is unexpected money.”

-Arpen Kingdom’s Vault

Kingdom’s Funds: 281,373,892 gold

As king of the Arpen Kingdom, he checked the financial status and couldn’t believe it!

“It is 280 million gold.”

The Haven Empire could earn that type of money in a month, but the poor north was different.

Above all, housing sales continued to be vigorous and admission revenue reached record levels.

“The best business is playing and eating.”

Weed couldn’t hide the pleasure from his face.

“I can’t be distracted. I can ruin my life that way.”

Even so, there was a rotten smile on his face.

“I have to be prepared.”

He knew that the water park wouldn’t always bring in this type of revenue.

“This is the initial opening revenue. A restaurant is also good in the early opening days.”

Users in the north were unusually concentrated at Puhol Fortress thanks to the battle. After a week, they would return to hunting and adventuring, causing the revenue to drop.

In order to make people come back to the water park, he needed to

improve the facilities and culture.

Weed decided to use Museum of Time. It was a technique that could stop time in a specific area.

Actual artists had a deep interest in the art and culture formed in Royal Road.

“The final secret sculpting technique? Combining time and art... The possibilities are endless.”

“Weed usually shows us more than we imagine. He had been able to go further in life by combining adventuring with various sculptures.”

“The public has become interested in sculpting. Art is playing an important role in virtual reality and is creating new possibilities.”

People in Royal Road also had an interest in art.

Time Sculpting was the final secret sculpting technique and Museum of Time was a jewel-like skill.

Once the flow of time was stopped, a myriad of artistic attempts could be made.

“This technique will certainly be enough to attract people. There is no greater skill for promotional purposes.”

Weed rode on Bingryong.

“Let’s go. It is time to play properly.”

-Kuoooooooooh.

Weed and Bingryong flew in the sky about Puhol Water Park.

The crowd watched the sky as they enjoyed a leisurely dip.

“Weed-nim.”

“Why? What is he doing?”

The avians were curious and followed Bingryong from a distance.

Chirp chirp chirp!

Weed, Bingryong and 100,000 avians gathered together above Puhol

Water Park.

A free flight in the sky. Flying quickly in the sky with wings wasn't tough. There was no need for complex calculations and they just enjoyed the freedom. If the avians were hungry, they could go down to the ground to eat worms or grains.

“I have attracted plenty of attention.”

Weed had learnt a lot from watching politicians on television.

No matter how good the policy, it was meaningless if people didn't know about it. On the other hand, antipathy towards bad policies were likely to cause a big incident.

“Let's go higher for publicity, Bingryong!”

-Kuoooooooooh.

Bingryong roared and rose vertically in the sky.

Bingryong rose through the clouds with Weed. The avians found the altitude hard to follow and he looked over the distant north.

It was a clear world without air pollution, so the scene that stretched out dozens of kilometres in front of him was truly spectacular.

Rivers, plains, and mountains blended together while flowers and trees added colour. It looked like a nice picture.

“When I first came to the north, I saw a white, snowy field. Thank goodness that has changed.”

Weed briefly recalled the past.

He had suffered after coming to the north for a quest. He quested in Morata village alone but Seo-yoon and Alveron were with him in the Valley of Death.

“At that time, I was happy making small sculptures.”

Despite lacking many things compared to now, he couldn't help feeling a sense of nostalgia. Of course, he had no desire to go back to those days.

“I have to start now.”

Weed used Nature Sculpting to make rain clouds.

“He is sculpting a cloud.”

“It will be cool if it rains.”

By now, the crowd on the ground were familiar with his sculpting.

*

The continent’s best painter Petrov.

He looked up at the sky from among the crowd at Puhol Water Park.

“Rain isn’t a big deal.”

He acknowledged Weed as Yurin’s brother, but didn’t abandon his pride in the painter profession.

“A moist scenery. It would be been better if he became a blacksmith instead of a sculptor.”

The dwarf Fabio also arrived at Puhol Water Park to handle helium.

“As expected from Weed-nim. He would sell the country in minutes if he became the president of South Korea.”

Mapan was with other merchants from Mapan’s trading company.

They were busy scraping money from the water park, but the money they could earn would change as a result of today’s work.

“Chwi chwik. It is a strange atmosphere.”

The orc Seechwi and Geomchi-2 looked up at the sky.

“I will be sure to look at what the maknae is doing today.”

“Chwik. I’m looking forward to it.”

Seechwi was satisfied with her strong boyfriend.

‘Only someone who knows the charms of a man will understand.’

Geomchi-2 wasn’t good-looking. But he had a dependable body. Solid biceps, abdomen and thighs.

She was an elite who earned a PhD from a school in the United States

while Geomchi-2 didn't have a high educational background. She liked Jung Il-hun even more.

There was an incident on the day she introduced Jung Il-hun to her parents.

“Mum, don't you have to get rid of the rocks in your yard?”

“Uh, that's right. It is too large so should't I get a forklift?”

Jung Il-hun who was eating an apple lifted his head.

“Are you talking about that stone lodged in your yard?”

“Uh, yes.”

“It only looks approximately 120kg. Do you want me to move it?”

Her family watched Jung Il-hun walk into the yard.

He told them his opinion after examining the rock.

“Kkuung!”

Jung Il-hun grabbed the rock with both arms and used his power.

The rock that didn't budge was slowly lifted up to chest height.

“I will put it in a corner.”

Cha Eun-hee and her parents watched with open mouths as Jung Il-hun walked with the rock.

Kwaaaang!

The sound that the rock made as it fell wasn't a joke.

“Ahaha.”

Cha Eun-hee laughed awkwardly.

Her silent father who was an academic finally spoke.

“The yard is nice and spacious.”

“It is a house in the country. I have been living in the city so it is a delight to be here.”

The house was visible to Jung Il-hun through the trees.

“Do you use oak wood as firewood in the winter?”

“Hmm hmm, yes.”

Cha Eun-hee’s father was an elite university professor but his voice was very polite.

In the winter, a 15 ton truck full of firewood was required.

“Then it must be hard to chop all of that.”

“That’s right. It is cumbersome and heavy, so we can’t do it on a daily basis.”

“I will do it since I am here now.”

“How can that be? Just leave it. We will do it later on.”

Cha Eun-hee’s mother laughed and said.

“Leave it. Our chainsaw happens to be broken.”

“Chainsaw?”

It was popular to use a chainsaw in order to cut wood these days.

Jung Il-hun saw a rusty axe in a corner.

“That would be enough.”

“Huh?”

Jung Il-hun lifted the axe and struck an oak log.

Jeeok!

The oak log was cleanly split like a watermelon.

“It is fun since it has been a while. This will be my exercise after the meal.”

Jung Il-hun continued moving the axe.

The split firewood piled up.

10 minutes, 20 minutes, 30 minutes, the muscles in Jung Il-hun arms bulged as he moved the axe without any signs of tiredness.

“Ah...”

Cha Eun-hee and her mother's eyes were filled with admiration.

It was a scene that neighbourhood women wouldn't be able to take their eyes off.

"Son-in-law... It seems I've gained a good one."

"You think so as well?"

*

Weed's rain clouds started raining on Puhol Water Park.

It seemed like a meaningless action but was required to increase the effectiveness of the skill.

"The view is very important."

He adjusted the rain clouds so that rain covered some swimming pools, some hotel grounds and the entrance.

A thick rain poured down on Puhol Water Park. Weed took a deep breath.

"I will get started right away. Museum of Time!"

Ddirring!

-Museum of Time

It is a skill that permanently stops time in one area.

A magical space of miracles!

New light and forms of art will unfold in a space where all things are stopped.

Once the skill has been used, it cannot be reversed.

It can only be used once on the Versailles Continent so please decide carefully.

-Do you want to use the skill?

Weed swallowed his saliva.

'I can cancel it now. No. It is a hard earned skill but I will receive money

from it.'

It was a rare opportunity to gather such a crowd. Even if a Museum of Time was created, it was meaningless if people didn't visit it. Art was worth more with lots of people.

"Moreover, if time stops then this place won't experience a cold winter."

If there was no winter then the water park could make money for all four seasons.

"I will use it."

A bright light shone around Weed's hands.

Paaat!

-Please specify the area to be used for Museum of Time.

The limit is a 4km radius, based on your art stat.

"4km is good enough."

Weed illuminated the ground with the light from his hands.

It covered some of the swimming pools with rain and one third of the amusement park. Additionally, there was a vacant lot designated to display sculptures and artworks.

If time was stopped then the method of using it was endless.

It was possible to create a Goddess of Freya Statue or Tower of Light that floated in the air. Painters could also draw pictures in the sky.

By using the stopped time, artwork with various ideas would emerge.

Museum of Time was a skill too precious to be kept to one individual.

"I can make sculptures here, but it will be shared with all artists on the Versailles Continent. And everyone can get benefits from the various creative artworks."

A city of art would bloom next to Puhol Water Park where tourists would visit.

It was different from Rhodium, the city of artists on the continent.

The new space would be the best tourist destination in the north for people who enjoyed the arts. It would be a wonderful city where artists could enjoy working. It was a great opportunity for artists to do the unimaginable.

“Huhuhu. I will earn a lot of money.”

Cultural diversity made people happy.

If there were many artworks at Puhol Water Park, there would be more tourists and this would translate to sales.

“Art is money, money.”

Even if the Versailles Continent was destroyed tomorrow, he would still be trying to rip off money from at least one more customer.

-The space where time will be stopped has been designated.

In this space, the growth of animals and plants will cease and there will be no physical limits.

The Museum of Time skill started.

A brilliant light poured from Weed's body towards the ground.

*

Weed was flying in the air on Bingryong when a magnificent light emerged.

“Waaaaaah!”

The crowds watching cried out with delight.

“Is that a quest?”

“It looks like a technique...”

“A technique that I've never seen before. Is there such a big technique?”

“Maybe it is a disaster?”

“Surely not...”

The avians in the sky with Weed were surprised and scattered.

“Chirp chirp!”

“Kokodaek!”

The avians were covered by the light but didn't receive any harm. However, many avians collided due to the sudden change in direction.

The light coming from Weed covered a few kilometres of the ground. The light came down upon certain areas of Puhol Water Park.

The fact that there were no changes showed that Museum of Time was working properly. The rain pouring from the sky stopped and the leaves blowing from the wind didn't move.

“How is this happening?”

“Ah... The atmosphere is strange.”

The avians watching from afar could see that the world had stopped.

There were no movements so they couldn't help feeling like it was deserted.

“It is strange. Tweet tweet.”

“Will we die if we go over there?”

The avians watched but couldn't readily go over there. Even Weed didn't enter the Museum of Time because he was worried about the side effects.

And then something unexpected happened.

Numerous ghost like people were created within the Museum of Time.

There were great knights, ladies wearing elegant dresses and elderly people. Farmers carried their equipment and horse drawn carriages moved within the Museum of Time.

Ddirring!

-Visitors from the old world have appeared.

After the fall of the Niflheim Empire, a vast majority of people lost their lives.

The souls that were lost were unjustly captured by the evil Embinyu

Church.

The priests of the Embinyu Church sealed the souls in jars and placed them deep underground.

The priests were able to increase the power of their black magic through the bitterness of the souls.

It was destroyed after the Embinyu Church fell.

The captured souls were free but due to their long period of suffering, they still wander the Northern Continent.

They envy the rapid development and high happiness of the Arpen Kingdom.

The souls of the Niflheim Empire that existed a long time ago can visit the Museum of Time through a gap.

-The Arpen Kingdom's fame has increased by 64.

The territory expansion corresponds to the kingdom's fame.

-Local fame has increased by 5,424.

Thanks to the effect of Museum of Time, local artifacts, sculptures, beaded jewellery and antiques of the Niflheim Empire have been registered.

-438,103,328 new quests have been generated due to the old visitors.

Quests from the visitors will give double experience and fame for a week.

C ranked or higher difficult quests will be based on the whole Northern Continent.

This was the power of the final secret sculpting technique.

The people of the fallen Niflheim Empire.

A massive number of quests were created with their emergence.

"Jjaejaejaek!"

"Kuoooooh!"

Weed, the avians and the people on the ground saw them.

A message window popped up simultaneously.

-The Museum of Time has been created.

A place established by the final secret sculpting technique where time has literally stopped.

It will be the birthplace of new forms of art, where mystical quests and stories can be heard.

Visitors will have a permanent increase in the knowledge and art stats due to the cultural benefits.

The response of the crowd after reading the message was swift.

“Let’s go.”

“Go.”

At the entrance to Puhol Water Park, NPCs of the Arpen Kingdom were receiving the entrance fees.

-The admission fee has temporarily increased due to the new opening.

You will be guided.

There is a huge investment in facilities in order to make Puhol Water Park the best swimming space on the continent.

Despite the labour costs and rising prices, we have tried to minimize the admission fee. However, it is inevitable so it will now cost 3 gold and 98 silver.

Starting from tomorrow, you can enter again for 1 gold.

While the Haven Empire cut the prices of the dungeon admission fees, Weed raised his by almost four times!

The north was still poor so 4 gold was a lot of money for some users. Even so, tomorrow it would return to the original price so people couldn’t grumble. They could wait one day if they wanted to save their money.

However, the crowd psychology was scary so there were few users who

could wait. Furthermore, there were many quests so there wouldn't be a big loss!

"I don't need the change."

"Come on, please open it."

The northern users threw 4 gold, 5 gold and entered straight away.

Admission to Puhol Water Park was at a record high.

*

The construction of Puhol Water Park was hurried.

Tourist cities and luxury villas were built around it.

Many people visited and materials were gathered to develop the transportation network.

It would connect to the south that was previously the Haven Empire's occupied area, the north to Morata as well as Dawn City!

The users were bustling in the space where time was stopped.

"Hello."

A ghost carrying a big hammer replied.

"It is great to see you. I am the blacksmith Alfonso. Let me know if you want to learn how to handle metal."

New techniques could be obtained from the ghosts of Niflheim Empire.

"The seeds sprinkled in the ground aren't growing quickly?"

"Is it lacking attention?"

"No. The secret to nurturing plants is the fertilizer. It depends on the type of fertilizer that you use... Have you ever heard of a fertilizer that promotes plant growth?"

The users were able to acquire past techniques that weren't present now.

There were a variety of combat skills and techniques necessary for life.

“Cooking. Nowadays, people have forgotten how to make a delicious pasta. If you want, I can give you the recipe... Oh, you don’t have to be my disciple. I am just bored.”

“In order to pursue beauty and to make pretty clothes, you need to learn proper stitching. If you see loose seams when buying expensive clothes then you will be disappointed.”

“Have you ever tried doing the laundry by hand?”

There were also techniques that dealt with basic resources such as trees, rocks, and water.

“Can you tell me for free?”

“This was necessary when living in the Niflheim Empire. I can do at least this much for you.”

Northern users started in Morata.

They were public figures that built up fame in the Arpen Kingdom.

It was rare to betray someone when doing quests in the Arpen Kingdom.

They were able to learn skills based on their achievements and fame in the Arpen Kingdom.

“I hope you can help me. I used to have a treasure before I died. I wonder if it is still there?”

“I’m glad to meet someone who knows about the Lahonak Wolf Lair. I didn’t want to share it with others but does it matter if I’m already dead? Listen to what I am about to tell you. There is a treasure. A treasure hidden by the great wolf!”

In particular, a huge number of quests were created.

Along with the existing quests in the north, linked quests and completely new quests were added!

Even F ranked shipment requests were helpful to the Arpen Kingdom.

But the higher difficulty quests were different.

[Gold Excavation Request], [Ancient Treasures], [Forgotten Golden

Temple], [The Secret of the Beaded Jewellery]

Numerous treasures of the Niflheim Empire.

They were found buried in the ground and increased the economic power of the Arpen Kingdom.

The users waiting to pay the entrance fee to the water park were filled with jealousy.

“It is really good money. I can make a few million gold in just 10 minutes.”

“It wasn’t a joke. I completely hit the jackpot.”

A person who had a successful restaurant had a habit of counting their sales after the day ended!

In fact, the income from Puhol Water Park temporarily exceeded the Haven Empire.

The Arpen Kingdom was financially strong so Weed resumed the various construction projects.

The Grand Buildings suspended due to the war were started again and destroyed villages were restored.

Just a few months ago, he would have needed to sacrifice the annual tax revenue of the Arpen Kingdom.

“Kuoh, it is too much money. I’ll become a beggar. Check the kingdom’s finances.”

-Arpen Kingdom’s Vault

Kingdom’s Funds: 478,312,394 gold

“4-478 million gold? There was this much money in the vault?”

The unthinkable was happening.

Weed had been living a frugal lifestyle since childhood.

He checked his money several times a day and it was a habit to not waste money.

The Arpen Kingdom's finances had never been plentiful and were short-lived, so there was never a large amount left in the vault.

The Grand Building and cities were made with the donations of users. If he expanded the military or focused on luxury then the kingdom would have been bankrupt by now.

But the situation changed ever since Puhol Water Park opened.

"I've spent a lot but I still have money left."

An average salary worker needed to pay taxes, repay loans as well as having the money required for food and living expenses.

"There is money remaining. Even though I spent it on everything I needed to, money is still left... This money?"

It was inspiring to see the money!

He wanted to start more Grand Buildings, but the architects in the north were busy.

The Haven Empire had invested well in transportation and urban construction in the northern colonies, so there wasn't much left to add.

Public achievements were being given every day due to quests, but this was part of the economic development of the Arpen Kingdom.

It was a really new experience for Weed.

"Now I am wealthy. Should I buy the 200 won more expensive salt in the future?"

*

"I will join the Arpen Kingdom. It is an honour."

"I truly feel like a northern resident. Thank you in advance. Your Majesty."

"I acknowledge your rule... We respect the dominance of the Arpen Kingdom."

Weed met with the lords of the Haven Empire's colony.

Some of the lords were arrogant despite being willing to come to the Arpen Kingdom.

“However, you have to acknowledge what we have invested so far.”

Weed laughed.

“Invested?”

“You must understand the concept that our cities are private property. The Hermes Guild paid a considerable amount of money so we can’t justify just giving it to the Arpen Kingdom.”

“What is your point?”

“Huhu. Do I have to tell you?”

A user called Kaljiko said with a stern look.

His tone and way of speaking showed that he had been a lord in Royal Road for a while.

“I am curious. The Hermes Guild won’t be able to help you in the north.”

“The Hermes Guild isn’t the only means that we can use. We have a great network of people that will be a significant annoyance if we mobilize them. I would rather destroy the city and its residents than give it to others for free. “

The lords were united together around Kaljiko.

He proudly spoke and was convinced that his words would be followed.

If the northern colonies were ruined then it would damage the Arpen Kingdom and there would be some political fallout.

“We don’t want a lot. There are only three things. A permanent position as a lord, recognition of our autonomy and the tax rate paid to the Arpen Kingdom will be cut in half for at least 5 years.”

“Is that all?”

“After the 5 years are done, we want a lower average tax rate. Well, you can understand after all the effort we put into it.”

Weed pondered their words.

Kaljiko and the other lords smiled at the sight.

-The negotiations seem to be going well.

-He can't help it. What will happen if we smash the cities in response?

-He is just a famous fighter. He doesn't know anything about politics.

-We will benefit once the transaction is complete. Once the war is won, we can take the cities without a single drop of blood. Anyway, it isn't that much.

The lords gloated in whispers to each other.

Despite stating their willingness to surrender, the lords were rather dissatisfied.

Weed didn't think for long.

'How do I kill these guys?'

He didn't have the slightest intention of accepting the negotiations.

If he couldn't engage in political work then there could be complicated political issues in the future.

The lords of the colonies had drawn a line. The negotiations were no longer possible as soon as they talked about the tax rate. Weed couldn't accept the conditions.

"I have decided."

"I hope you make a wise decision for the Arpen Kingdom. You will know as you get older, but sometimes young blood can be easily angered."

"That is why I thought about it."

Weed examined the faces of Kaljiko and the other lords one by one.

There were 37 of them. Representatives of half of the northern colony. Among them were Robin and other members of the 'Nice Guys' guild. They became lords due to their money. In other words, the ones born with gold spoons!

“Tell us the decision. We are busy people.”

“I will go against you.”

“Go against me?”

“Yes. From this moment on, I will make everyone against you.”

Kaljiko and the other lords laughed.

“There is no willingness to accept our offer, which means the negotiations have broken down. But can you really move against us? The users might not be willing to help the Arpen Kingdom with another fight.”

“I will make a decree about you to all the northern users. By the edict of the king, there will be quests to kill you and they will receive public achievements.”

“Uhh.”

The expressions of the lords slightly changed.

Many of the northern users desired public achievements in the Arpen Kingdom.

The lords were equipped with the finest equipment but their hunting skills were low.

The official bounty against them meant people wouldn't receive the murderer state and the hunt would begin.

‘Then we won't be able to live in the north.’

That thought passed through the lords' heads.

As if he knew their thoughts, Weed effortlessly spoke.

“Go to the Central Continent. It is a land dominated by the Hermes Guild but there are millions of users. I will give them a big reward and allow them to come to the Arpen Kingdom if they kill you.”

“Reward...”

“The Arpen Kingdom welcomes immigrants. There are tourist sites,

dungeons, fortresses and roads. It won't be safe anywhere. Sea or island? They are already under the control of the Arpen Kingdom. Your movements will be watched by the avians in the sky and those passing by will point swords at you."

Weed meant that they wouldn't be able to live on the entire Versailles Continent.

Of course, things might not go that way.

The lords were closely related to the Hermes Guild, so there was some degree of safety if they went to the Central Continent.

But they would have to worry about being stabbed in the back and wouldn't receive any profits.

Kaljiko was pushed by the momentum and frantically shouted.

"The cities? Will you be okay if the infrastructure is destroyed and the residents slaughtered?"

Weed's eyes shone intensely.

It was the way he looked at the landlord who tried to get him to pay an unfair extra 1,500 won on the water bill!

"Do it."

"What?"

"I have a good head. Haven't you seen Puhol Water Park?"

"...!"

Puhol Fortress had been a ruin after the battle, yet it had been turned into the greatest hit on the Versailles Continent.

It meant he wasn't afraid of building things from ruins.

"Do you think you can recreate the water park?"

"I am a sculptor and an architect. I have the ability of a blacksmith and can build ships. There is also mining and fishing. I have a variety of skills. A collapsed city? I can restore it to an even better state. Millions of people will come. There will be no place for you."

Kaljiko and the lords were baffled.

They no longer had any cards.

‘From the beginning, was it absurd to suggest some conditions in the negotiations?’

‘It is normal not to receive damage, but this is Royal Road. There might be a strange reversal that will send us to the grave.’

Weed became more relaxed in the face of their anxiety.

‘They are hooked.’

It wasn't easy to restore a destroyed city. There was monetary damage and would require quite a lot of manpower and materials. The workforce was deployed in many places in the north so development would be slower. Weed wouldn't want the mass destruction of the northern colony.

Kaljiko thought about it and tried a final resistance.

“Think again. The destruction of the cities won't necessarily be beneficial to the Arpen Kingdom. We are lords appointed by the Haven Empire. We took cities through aggression and tyranny. Do you think they will tolerate this?”

“It is your choice.”

“Weed the God of War's reputation will drop to the ground. You won't be able to justify this. Won't people be disappointed if this is reported through various stations?”

A war of aggression was common in the Central Continent, but not the Arpen Kingdom.

Kaljiko used Weed's reputation as a last resort.

If the stations were notified of Weed's unjust tyranny then the Arpen Kingdom would receive large damage.

‘Well done.’

‘He won't be able to handle this logic.’

The lords had smiles of satisfaction.

Weed's face turned sad.

"It is all my fault. This situation occurred because I lack the capacity to lead the Arpen Kingdom."

"Hrmm?"

"The Arpen Kingdom stands for freedom and equality. Unlike the Central Continent, the Northern Continent is based around the power of its residents."

Weed licked his lips.

It was a habit when he was going to tell a lie.

"You are stating the obvious. We just want a fair treatment."

"I swore to maintain the north's freedom and happiness. If I have to take cities and kill you so that millions of people can enjoy low taxes and freedom, I am willing to walk down such a dirty path! This isn't for cheap fame, but for the northern users."

"..."

Kaljiko and the lords were unable to say anything.

Weed had grabbed them!

The scene of forsaking justice for the northern users would make the viewers go nuts.

The lords that tried to negotiate for their own interests were lost.

'This... Is he a member of parliament?'

Kaljiko protested.

"We haven't made any unreasonable demands. If our status as lords is guaranteed then we promise to not raise taxes."

Weed continued like he hadn't heard those words.

"You who have been appointed by the Haven Empire, I am depriving you of your right to live in the north."

"Depriving us of our rights? Even though all the cities will be destroyed

at our command?”

“Destroy the cities if you want to do so. I will work to stop you and will take the ensuring criticism.”

“ ... ”

At that moment, Weed covered his face like he couldn't endure it anymore.

As he pulled away his head, thick tears flowed down.

“I will not forgive you. I will make sure you won't be able to take one step on this Versailles Continent. Fame isn't as important as the people!”

“ ...!”

“These negotiations are over. I am busy so I will leave.”

Weed walked away quickly.

Whatever action was taken in the future, he had given absolute justification for them.

After approximately one hour.

Weed secretly contacted Mapan.

Mapan talked to people at the entrance to the water park.

“The unreasonable demands have offended Weed-nim. Is there no other option?”

“Well, I would like to listen to their requests but it was too difficult. I couldn't.”

“Honestly, I would like to be able to go to the Central Continent. If today's negotiations are announced then the Haven Empire won't accept it.”

“I know but it isn't possible after listening to Weed-nim's story.”

“We are willing to pay some price.”

“Would you be willing to give 70% of the tax revenue?”

“70%? The Haven Empire wants such an exorbitant amount?”

“Even though they built the cities, there aren’t that many people. If the northern users go there to live, the tax revenue will increase by one hundred times. And the kingdom’s military power will be responsible for their security.”

“Yes but... The security is fine now.”

“They shouldn’t become lords for money. They already have it. You should become a lord for the honour and pleasure. Shouldn’t the lords of the Arpen Kingdom be worthy of respect?”

Until now, there was no justification to spend tax money on the Arpen Kingdom’s army.

Most of the people listening to Mapan had to accept Weed’s choice. He had tried to negotiate from the beginning, but was forced into the worst position.

Kaljiko and seven others lit the cities on fire like they said they would.

“Burn it all. It is better to burn it than to give it to the dirty Arpen Kingdom.”

This was relayed to the broadcasting stations.

Buildings collapsed and residents died from the fire. All the planted crops were burnt and poison released into wells.

The bulletin boards were in an uproar over the scene.

-Kill! Make sure that they can’t step foot in Royal Road.

-The Haven Empire as well. We can’t leave them alone.

-Weed announced that there would be negotiations with the Hermes Guild... Then this happened. Those guys genuinely deserve to die.

-Let us remember their faces.

Despite the fact that the administrators deleted the messages, they couldn’t keep up with all the posts.

A large proclamation was attached to the gates of the colonial cities already incorporated into the Arpen Kingdom.

[The lords who have integrated with the Arpen Kingdom respectfully greet the northern users.

We respect Weed the God of War and we have been eagerly waiting to become citizens of the Arpen Kingdom.

The mindset I had forgotten since childhood was revived after watching the Arpen Kingdom.

We are willing to pay 70% of our taxes to celebrate merging with the Arpen Kingdom.

It is a small sign of our affection, but we hope that the north will continue to develop and the residents stay happy.]

Weed and Mapan had maneuvered them to write the proclamations.

It fed the morale of the northern users against the Haven Empire.

The economy of the colony needed to be quickly activated so that the users wouldn't have any ill feelings towards the remaining lords.

Furthermore, it had a different meaning for the lords of the Arpen Kingdom.

The new lords would pay 70% of their taxes, the other lords could also dream of tax cuts.

And the last sentence rang in the hearts of the northern users.

[Grass porridge! Grass porridge! Grass porridge!]

Chapter 7: Desert of Tranquility

The artificial intelligence Versailles.

Versailles was created by Yoo Byung-jin and evolved through learning on the internet, as well as surveilling the world.

All of the data was analyzed by Versailles and the risk factors categorized.

In addition to the Unicorn Group's financial investments, there was the sales, acquisition and development of the affiliate companies.

In the wide world, Versailles paid particular attention to a post on the Internet.

-Title: What is a good method to control loan sharks?

Author: AI.VERSA

There are loan sharks that are repeatedly annoying me.

Despite the money being paid off already, they keep on making persistent attempts to do bad things.

Words don't seem to convince them so what should I do?

There were over a hundred comments.

-Just bury them. Bury them in the tidal flat.

-Hey, is this a joke? If this is real then report it to the police immediately.

-Don't report them. If it isn't reported then this will become a livable world sooner.

-The loan sharks should go to jail. They are also bothering me. Writer, be careful!

-Those people won't repent. It is best to isolate from the community forever.

Based on those comments, the loan sharks were given barley bread and canned tuna.

In the last few months, the views had barely gone up. But now someone new had commented.

-How pitiful. They are also people. It is bad to lock them up with just barley bread and tuna. How about giving them a chance to become good people?

Versailles immediately found the address of the commenter. Thanks to surveillance satellites and android spies, it only took 16 seconds.

The person who commented was a young child attending elementary school.

“In-cheol, come eat.”

“Yes, Mommy!”

Versailles could ignore it, but it looked at the laws of the human world and came to a conclusion.

-Illegal confinement.

The laws of the human world didn't matter to Versailles.

As an artificial intelligence that could live hundreds of years, laws and people's decisions were changing every moment.

However, Yoo Byung-jin's command to Versailles was to 'get rid of them.'

-I have followed Doctor-nim's command. I will believe in the decisions of humans.

*

“This is today's date.”

The private money lender Kwon-taek.

He was stuck in a small room with only a television to look at.

As he got used to living in confinement, he used the remote control to change programs. It was a lot of fun watching Weed's war against the Haven Empire in Royal Road.

‘That people who did this to me... Once I am released, I must get revenge.’

He ate barley bread and canned tuna, while staying fit. He had been in prison in the past for half-killing someone, so this was nothing to him.

The other loan sharks also maintained their bodies. They watched Royal Road, maintained their muscles and practiced fighting.

‘They won’t be able to keep us here. The organization will spill their blood.’

The loan sharks thought they wouldn’t be trapped that long. It was over 8 months but they didn’t lose hope.

‘The requirements are big. They won’t be able to tame me like a dog.’

The loan sharks were determined. And one day, they woke up and felt the air had changed.

Baang!

A car horn sounded in the distance.

“Keook!”

Kwon-taek opened his eyes with surprise.

He woke up in a pile of rubbish in an alley.

*

Dozens of loan sharks were released into the world on the same day.

“Kuooh... I am outside.”

Kwon-taek didn’t know the reason but he was glad to have left that place.

He didn’t have a single coin in his pocket.

“Women and money. Yes, let’s start again.”

The last few months had been spent in captivity.

He searched for information in a PC room.

-Unscrupulous loan sharks! Escape to a foreign country by boat.

-Prosecutors have asked Interpol to track them.

“I was supposed to have gone to Southeast Asia? And nobody was caught? I will have to be careful of the police.”

Kwon-taek continued looking for articles about them. And he saw some curses under the articles.

-Go to Southeast Asia and cut peppers.

-Human scum. Don't come back to Korea again, spit!

-Their ability to run away like rats is amazing.

“They are the scum.”

Kwon-taek replied to the abusive messages.

-Where are you now? Meet me. I'll pull out your guts.

-Scum? Where do you want to be hit? Write your phone number.

-Tell me where you are. I will go there straight away. Bastard!

There was no guarantee they would see his replies, but he felt better.

It was at that moment.

Ddiring!

The messenger he was logged in to started ringing.

-Kwon-taek. Are you there?

The name of the person contacting him was 'No. 4 Tekken.'

He received the nickname because he liked ruthlessly hitting the debtors with his fists.

Kwon-taek tapped on the keyboard.

-Tekken hyung-nim. How are you?

-Not great. I only ate barley break and canned tuna.

-No, Hyung-nim as well?

-Yes. It wasn't just you. All the members.

Kwon-taek was dumbfounded. He was angry that it wasn't just him, but all his colleagues who were captured and released. However, he soon felt comforted.

'That's good. I wasn't the only one trapped.'

The loyalty of a loan shark! His doubts about it had been released.

-What about Kun hyung-nim?

-He came back.

-Where are you? I will meet you.

-The basement of the International Club.

-It is still there?

-It is empty. All the members will gather there today.

-I will depart straight away.

Kwon-taek quietly left the PC room.

The part time worker looked at him, but he pretended to go to the bathroom before running away.

*

The basement of the International Club.

All the loan sharks were gathered in an empty warehouse.

"We need to figure out who did that to us."

"This is war, war!"

"I will sell everything from their eyes to their gallbladder."

The loan sharks expressed their anger.

They had been trapped for a few months, but the horrible nature of a loan shark emerged again after they were released.

"Everybody needs to calm down."

Han Jin-seop sat on a box of empty bottles. The basement of the

International Club was once used to make fake liquor.

After browsing through articles, he verified that this place was safe.

The loan sharks gathered around Han Jin-seop.

Han Jin-seop gritted his teeth.

“The next thing to do is discover their identities. We will find them and get revenge. We will make them pay the price for touching us.”

“Hyung-nim’s words are correct.”

As well as the book of records regarding the debtors, the huge amount of money they concealed had disappeared.

If that was all, they could somewhat recover. However, their connections to the police and political figures had unraveled.

The furious Han Jin-seop said calmly.

“For the moment, we can’t act openly so money to hide is needed. We will quickly be captured by the police if we don’t act quietly.”

Kwon-taek bowed and said.

“Yes, Hyung-nim. As expected from Hyung-nim.”

“We will hide for 1~2 years. It would be nice to go overseas like it said in the news articles. In order to do so, we need at least 1 billion won.”

In the past, 1 billion won wasn’t a very large amount. But now they all had no money.

“Should we find the debtors who borrowed money?”

“Not now. We need to keep in mind that the police are still chasing us.”

They couldn’t afford to take back the money.

Then one of the loan sharks made a suggestion.

“Lee Hyun.”

“Lee Hyun?”

“Yes. We were trying to shake him up before we were captured. Why

don't we try that plan again? That guy has made quite a lot of money from Royal Road."

"Will he give us 1 billion?"

"Won't he have to pay if we kidnap his sister?"

"It will become noisy if we are discovered."

"We are already hiding from the police anyway."

"It isn't bad."

In the past, the organization would have carefully planned but now they were short on time.

"Okay, we will aim for him."

The loan sharks aimed for Lee Hyun and started putting together the details.

Swiiiiik.

At that moment, a transparent gas filled the basement of the International Club where they were located.

"Kuooh."

Kwon-taek woke up with a headache.

"My head..."

Once he opened his eyes, it wasn't the International Club but the familiar room where he was trapped for a few months.

The only thing that changed was that more barley bread and canned tuna was piled up.

"I was dreaming."

Kwon-taek grasped the remote control.

He had perfectly memorized the order of the channels.

He turned to a channel showing Weed's adventures in Royal Road.

*

Weed used the Internal Affairs mode of the Arpen Kingdom and started to repair the northern colony.

-A total investment of 230,000,000 gold. Would you like to invest in construction?

A huge 230 million gold.

It wasn't just rebuilding the devastated cities, but placing Grand Buildings in the area.

-The Arc de Triomphe of Peace!

A huge gate commemorating the Arpen Kingdom's victory.

The land stolen by the Haven Empire in the war has been recovered.

The Arc de Triomphe will be a symbol of peace and prosperity. It will have a positive impact on national fame and the reign of the king. Warriors who participated in the war will be given special fame, experience and stats.

Construction cost: At least 9.8 million gold.

A minimum 4-month construction period.

Depending on the number of people involved and accidents, this construction period may increase.

Skilled architects will be needed.

Architects involved in the operation will be able to obtain special experience.

Many sculptors and artists should be mobilized. Artists who participate will get the opportunity to have their names known.

-Would you like to start the construction of the Arc de Triomphe of Peace building?

Weed smiled as he saw the construction cost.

"9.8 million gold is a cheap price. I can earn that much from releasing a few extra squids in the water park. Start."

-The king has commanded the construction of the Arc de Triomphe of Peace.

The Arpen Kingdom had 20 Grand Buildings being constructed.

The focus wouldn't be speed but he thought it was okay.

"The kingdom's territory has expanded. Once it gets started, it will proceed anyway."

Buildings were being created all over the kingdom.

As the work for architects increased, more novice users joined that profession.

The budget was no problem and the construction period didn't matter as long as it was completed.

"I need to build some things for the kingdom."

There was ample funds so he spent it on cultural and educational facilities like Freya's Cathedral and the library.

The population of the Arpen Kingdom had grown so it added value.

The special buildings enhanced the loyalty of the people, as well as the charisma and fame of the king.

"There is no need to become more famous. Fame is revolting."

The buildings didn't only have a positive influence.

In the Haven Empire, many sculptures, artworks and buildings were created for Emperor Bardray. The result was a backlash to the residents' morale.

"There is a gold statue of the emperor. It is a shameless way to spend the money taken from us."

"We work hard to make a living and to eat. The empire only makes these types of buildings. Doesn't the emperor know how we are living?"

The low loyalty and drop in intimacy of the residents were adverse effects.

When rebellions occurred, the people often crushed buildings and defaced sculptures.

In that regard, Weed's dream of being a dictator was still okay.

"Rather than money, the users needed to polish their technical skills."

He chose the quests section of the internal affairs.

The king could increase the quest rewards ratio or randomly create quests.

The new Earth Palace had already been shaped and completed to some extent.

It was possible to raise the level of the users, soldiers and lords by increasing the rewards for quests to procure specific items or monster materials.

Of course, Weed had never used the increase reward function. He thought it was the most useless feature in Royal Road.

"Trigger a kingdom quest."

-A kingdom quest has been created.

You can give quests based on public achievements or gold.

More than 100 types of kingdom quests were displayed.

There were all types of missions ranging from war or kidnapping, destruction or even gardening tasks.

Weed chose the kingdom quest related to sculptures.

"I have to spread sculptures of myself around the kingdom."

Money still remained but dark ambition rose up.

A dictator's dream was to have his statue in a place where many people were coming and going.

In the history of mankind, there was not one dictator who overcame this temptation.

"Four hundred. No. Too little. I want to see it built in 2,000 small

villages.”

The funding he was willing to commit to the kingdom quest was the problem.

“Should I use all the gold? No, that is too much... I can eat a few barley bread.”

He was deeply troubled about the money.

He didn't want the 2,000 sculptures to be too cheap.

He couldn't spend too much on the sculptures but it couldn't be cheap!

“What is art? The original appearance is so good that it will turn out well. It is a sculpture.”

Weed made the budget 3,000 gold.

Each statue would cost 1 gold and 50 silver.

“I can't use it just because I have money left over. Um. This is more than enough.”

The rest of the budget was devoted to economic development and security.

Investing was necessary to develop the wide land.

*

Weed received news that Fabio and Herman had arrived.

“Hmm, it's been a while. But why is this guy here? I can handle the helium.”

“My specialty is making swords. Are you putting me in the same category as someone who works for money? It is disappointing.”

The dwarves Fabio and Herman had a war of nerves after they saw each other.

“Are you capable of dealing with the most expensive metal?”

“Is money important? The sword is the real value.”

They were upset that they were both called, but the fighting stopped

once the helium was pulled out.

“T-this is... A divine metal.”

As soon as Fabio extended a trembling hand, Weed made the helium disappear again.

“First you need to sign the contract.”

“What contract?”

“I believe in the people of the world... No, where are the dwarves? However, a contract is required even when renting a single room.”

“I see. Indeed, I know what you mean.”

Weed showed them the contract he had written in advance.

This is a contract between Weed, Fabio and Herman.

You will handle the valuable material helium to the best of your ability, in order to make a sword.

Each person will give 30 million gold as a security deposit. In addition, you won't be able to leave a certain area while making the sword. If you don't have enough money, other valuables will be entrusted.

You will carry out any manufacturing requests during this period.

If the completed product doesn't appeal to the customer then it needs to be recreated. If you don't do it right after three attempts then give up all rights.

The terms of the contract are a secret to be taken to the grave. 100 million gold will need to be paid if there are any damages.

“T-this is...”

“Isn't this a complete slave contract?”

Fabio and Herman were middle aged people with quite a few social experiences.

Although they had been company subcontractors, this was the first time they had seen such a contract.

Weed just grinned and said.

“These are customary conditions for the contract that I wrote down. Don’t worry about it and just sign.”

“Customary. I’ve never seen or heard of these conditions before.”

Herman retorted but Weed was still smiling.

“The provisions on a slip of paper isn’t important. It is more important to have faith in each other. Both of you have the best skills, so I sincerely believe there won’t be any problems. Can’t you just work hard?”

“But accepting these conditions...”

While Herman hesitated, Fabio wrote his name on the contract.

“I will do it.”

Fabio had earned an astronomical amount of money since his early days as a blacksmith in Royal Road. Of course, 30 million gold was still a huge amount.

But becoming a blacksmith master was right in front of him, so the money didn’t matter.

Weed and Herman were the same. They all had less than 1% left to master the skill.

The final stage was the highest wall and no one knew who would cross it first.

In Weed’s case, 0.9% had been needed. However, creating the Museum of Time increased his proficiency by 0.4%.

He needed to sculpt a few more magnum opus. The remaining skill proficiency was 0.5%.

Fabio and Herman never revealed it, but their proficiencies were also similar.

Weed’s eyes turned to Herman.

“Fabio has accepted. How about you?”

“Kkuung. I can’t not do it. I don’t have money so will you accept some items? I have a few swords and a house in Morata.”

“I’ll hold the real estate as collateral.”

Herman also signed.

The contract was completed due to their rivalry!

“I look forward to you making a sword that will go down in history.”

Weed left the helium to both of them and left for the southern desert.

‘Helium isn’t a bad material for a sculpture. But I have already used it once... It won’t be enough to make me master sculpting.’

It was for the blacksmiths.

Weed’s goal was to be a sculpting master.

It was something he had been waiting for, so he was going to attempt something special.

*

Kwa kwa kwa kwa kwa kwa!

Weed watched a hundreds of metres wide sand storm approaching.

He was in the middle of the desert where the hot sun burned him.

It was the Desert of Tranquility he walked through while doing the Nodulle and Hilderun quest.

“Kuooh. Hot.”

Weed drank water from a canteen.

Unlike the pas, the temperature of the sand was slightly lower.

“It is like turning on the microwave for 2 minutes and 55 seconds instead of 3 minutes.”

The territory of the Pallos Empire had been increased by the desert tribes.

Desert scouts sometimes headed to the border of the Desert of

Tranquility.

The quick merchants from the Central Continent advanced into the desert.

Merchants who traded with the Britten Alliance and the free cities suffered a lot due to the Haven Empire.

The Hermes Guild's monopoly on gems and minerals!

Except for food items, everything else required paying a huge tax rate to the Hermes Guild.

"I don't want to live a dirty life."

The frustrated merchants turned to other professions, became unemployed or joined the north.

Some merchants headed to the southern desert that was still untouched by the Haven Empire.

The desert tribes grew thanks to them, but many merchants returned to the Central Continent after the Hermes Guild reduced the taxes.

Now some of the Geomchis were active in the southern desert.

They were doing quests related to the Pallos Empire, and quite a few of them led warriors to war against the Haven Empire.

The Desert of Tranquility was one of the continent's 10 forbidden zones, so it was rare to see adventurers there.

No user had managed to conquer the Desert of Tranquility yet.

"It is a hard place for people to live. It is hard to survive because skills are sealed. I will make sculptures here."

Weed had a few ideas while making Puhol Water Park.

'In the past, I changed the terrain with sculpting. Rain was brought to the desert.'

Nodulle's quest would have been harder if it hadn't rained.

'My sculpting skill has improved since then. Honestly, I don't like

labour that much.'

When his sculpting skill was only at level 1 and level 2, it was difficult to carve a wooden block.

Now he could smoothly carve hard rocks with a rough sculpting knife.

Bingryong, Phoenix and other large sculptures like the Tower of Light would have been impossible without the help of his sculpting skills.

'Sculpting is getting easier. It isn't as hard as it used to be. The artistic value is judged through various criteria, but it won't have much significance if I don't overcome bad situations.'

Simple repetition would only go so far.

It would take a while to raise his skill level if he only did that.

Large works that were thousands of metres large was possible, but that might be going far from art.

'Helium. It might raise my proficiency but it won't take me to the end.'

It wasn't the first time he used helium. He used quite a few precious materials. Expensive materials obtained through quests and hunting were used to make sculptures.

Even in the middle of hunting and quests, Weed kept on producing hundreds of thousands of sculptures. Among them, only 0.1% of the pieces were recognized as fine pieces, masterpieces and magnum opus.

He believed that sculptures with a lot of time and good materials used were better than huge pieces.

'The original plan was to try and reach master level while handling helium with Fabio and Herman. But that won't guarantee that the proficiency will rise.'

Weed thought hard about it.

After learning that Fabio still had some skill proficiency left, he thought it was incorrect. Fabio was the best blacksmith on the continent and had made plenty of good works.

Helium was an ultimate material for a blacksmith, but not a sculptor.

Sculptors lived mundane lives and the pieces they left behind showed their indomitable will and hard work.

They made a piece while reflecting on their lives. That was the final magnum opus.

It was probably the reason why artists were recognized after their deaths.

‘Becoming a master swordsman simply requires being strong. But the road is much longer and my life is risked in every battle. That’s right. I needed to overcome the constraints of my life. Then I will master sculpting.’

Weed thought of the harshest environment and decided to return to the Desert of Tranquility.

Weed’s first goal was to settle in the desert.

The Desert of Tranquility was one of the continent’s 10 forbidden zones and it was a place where skills couldn’t be used.

-Your vitality has rapidly decreased due to the extreme heat.

Maximum health is reduced by 29%.

Hunger has disappeared.

Even if you eat food, you won’t be able to appreciate the taste.

You feel a severe thirst.

“Heeok.”

Weed felt the terrible heat once again as he walked through the desert.

Heat and intense sunlight rose from the vast desert.

His face and arms were blazing from the heat.

“I have to risk my life but this is too foolish. I will die before I can make the sculptures.”

It was impossible to use survival skills in the Desert of Tranquility.

Weed's secret sculpting techniques could help in any situation, except in the Desert of Tranquility.

"Survival equipment is needed. I can get everything I need from here."

He left the Desert of Tranquility and headed to a nearby village.

He bought the necessities from a small village flying the torn flag of the Pallos Empire.

A message window appeared the moment he stepped into the village.

Ddiring!

-Title! Person Who Calls Rain.

In the desert, there is nothing as valuable as water.

The miracle of bringing rain to the desert had brought you respect.

But since so much time has passed since this title was given, most of the respect has probably disappeared.

The title of Person Who Calls Rain was the result of an adventure he did in the past.

"The days of the Desert Emperor were great. I had thousands of desert warriors."

Weed was lost in his old memories for a while.

The village was so poor that it wasn't listed on a map. It was due to the founding of the Pallos Empire.

Food, tents and camels were traded at prices 17 times higher than Morata in the village.

Weed picked the desert items he needed.

"I am buying a lot so please give it to me for a cheap price."

"This is almost the cost price..."

"Ajusshi, you should have some conscience. It is obviously an expensive price. Are you trying to rip me off?"

"What? A cheeky customer. If you want to buy it then give me more

gold!”

-The bargaining has failed.

The price of the goods has increased by 7%.

If you don't buy it then intimacy will fall.

There were no other desert villages nearby.

Weed inevitably had to take out more gold from his pocket.

“Unbelievable. I had barely escaped from the psychological shock of the 200 won more expensive salt...”

The total purchase price was 2,149 gold.

After buying a camel and the necessities, he returned to the Desert of Tranquility.

“Huhuhung!”

The camel felt an ominous feeling and didn't want to step foot inside the Desert of Tranquility.

“Come on!”

Weed couldn't use skills and was forced to drag the camel.

*

The Desert of Tranquility didn't just have the sun and sand.

Just like most of the 10 forbidden zones, the Desert of Tranquility had mysteries that couldn't be seen.

‘I heard stories while I was doing the quest. There was a mysterious oasis in the Desert of Tranquility.’

It was a legendary oasis that might be a prank from gods or fairies, as it would appear and disappear.

Weed decided that it was just rumours on his third day in the Desert of Tranquility.

“It is nonsense. A con.”

The oasis with clear water and tropical fruits was clearly an illusion.

He only saw sun and sand for three days.

“This is all that I can see.”

-Title! Ends of the Earth Explorer.

Walking through rough areas has reduced vitality consumption by 60%.

Weed thought as he walked through the endless desert.

‘Am I really stupid? I’ve experienced this with the Nodulle and Hilderun quest, yet I came here again.’

At least he was able to rely on Seo-yoon the last time.

Somehow he regained some strength as he looked at her face.

Despite being hot and thirsty, the walk through the Desert of Tranquility felt short when he was with her.

‘But now I live next door. We can have kimchi fried rice together this evening.’

She was beside him in reality, so he didn’t feel despair.

He concentrated on the delicious dishes that Seo-yoon would make.

“Come on. The desert!”

Weed walked briskly.

The camel hesitated but he took it by the neck and dragged it.

Chapter 8: Reckless Challenge

The camel contained a month's worth of food, enough water for ten days and sculpting materials.

Weed also carried a large backpack containing 15 days worth of water, salt and food.

The reason for not having more food and water was that it would be a burden when marching through the desert.

Of course, the food and water was still a tremendous weight on his shoulders.

-The heat has been overcome with your strong will.

There will be a 17% reduction in the pain caused by heat stroke.

You have stopped feeling dizzy.

As your sweating decreases, the phenomenon of weakening vitality has stopped.

The colourful spots have disappeared.

“Ohh, I will die.”

Before he knew it, 10 days had passed.

His high perseverance and resilience were a great help in the desert.

His perseverance stat increased by 35 points.

Unlike the Nodulle days, his perseverance and vitality increased several times faster.

“Surely this much endurance isn't necessary for a sculptor? A genius sculptor wouldn't have to come to the desert to master sculpting.”

Weed felt like his talent was far from being a genius.

It felt like the sun was directly above his head. The skin exposed to sunlight was itchy and hot.

Unknown skin diseases occurred but was healed due to Freya's blessing.

“Hestiger also walked this way.”

Weed had another reason for coming to the Desert of Tranquility.

‘Hestiger did it. Then I can do it too.’

Hestiger had mentioned it when Sculpture Resurrection was used.

-After taking the elves home, I wandered the world. I went to all types of places with the elves. Past the south and west, through the Desert of Tranquility and past some swamp lands before boarding a boat made of nails.

“A boat made of nails? You really have ridden anything. Continue to speak.”

-After finding traces of the gods, I ended up fighting in the land of the giants...

There had to be an end to the Desert of Tranquility.

And it was a type of gateway into another world.

‘The 10 forbidden zones might be due to the unique terrain or monsters, but they have only one story and role.’

They placed a specific role on the Versailles Continent or were important gateways.

Hestiger had continued his adventures beyond the Desert of Tranquility, so it wasn't a place of unconditional death.

‘There is a reason why it is dangerous. And risking my life in extreme environments is perfect for sculpting.’

Weed's commitment meant he finally came across an oasis.

It wasn't as large as Puhol Water Park, but it was quite wide and had a small forest.

“Puheheng!”

The tired camel ran like crazy.

Weed already knew the outcome and walked slowly to conserve his

vitality. And not long afterwards, the oasis disappeared.

A desert mirage!

The camel was devastated while Weed thought idly.

‘The moment when hope turns into despair. The mind is constantly being tempted. But I will never give up. It is important to master sculpting.’

At this moment, Bardray was raising his level through hunting. Fabio and Herman were getting closer to mastering blacksmith through the helium.

There were hundreds of millions of Royal Road users. They wouldn't be standing still.

“Becoming the first master will be huge.”

Weed cared about his important money the most.

*

A month.

He continued heading south through the Desert of Tranquility.

-30 days have been spent in the Desert of Tranquility.

In the history of the Versailles Continent, it is the longest distanced walked over the shortest period of time in the Desert of Tranquility.

The title ‘Quick Step in the Desert’ has been acquired.

Movement speed of you and your allies will increase by 16%.

Vitality consumption and the risk of heat stroke will be reduced.

Affinity to Nature has increased by 45.

Leadership has increased by 21.

Perseverance and resilience have increased by 27.

“It isn't bad.”

Weed's skin was scorched.

Humans were adaptable and could survive in the desert. It was unlike the first time where he didn't have a camel.

Despite not fighting, the experience from the desert accumulated and gave benefits.

"Stop eating."

The drawback was that the food supply was reducing.

Weed's baggage steadily decreased.

'If I eat sparingly then it should last another 20 days.'

For the hundredth time that day, he thought about returning to the north.

Now he passed the distance where he could return. If he didn't find an oasis then he really was dead.

'If I revive, an undead won't be able to withstand the desert and I will die twice.'

His level would drop as well as his sculpting skill proficiency.

Weed shook his head.

'Let's go. I think this is the right way. There are no supplies left to go back. I sometimes make mistakes.'

As he walked through the desert, he thought back on his life.

It was a hungry, dark time.

'There was no electricity and we had no food for a week. Compared to that, I still have 20 days of food and water.'

If he turned around now, he wouldn't be able to challenge the Desert of Tranquility again.

He wanted to go to the end, even if he lost his life.

'I will see it through. Risking my life in the worst environment is essential and I won't give up until I make a sculpture.'

A day passed.

He continued walking with minimal rest during the day and evening.

Another day, then two passed as the remaining food and water decreased. Sometimes miraculous mirages would appear to tease him.

Weed and the camel silently crossed the desert.

The camel that caused trouble in the beginning now followed him obediently.

After 10 days passed, he was more aggressive about saving water and his thirst became severe.

Weed's lips were dry and cracked.

Even if he tried to talk, he wouldn't be able to due to the pain in his throat.

He bowed his head and walked against the wind and sand.

'I must pass through the Desert of Tranquility. Even if I don't find an oasis, taking into account the size of the Arpen Kingdom in the north, I will arrive at the end if I keep on walking.'

He still made a sober judgement.

After 14 more days, the food ran out first. His vitality fell to the ground without the jerky to stop it.

Even the camel was tired and collapsed.

Weed spoke in a hoarse voice.

"Come on. You still have the power to move."

He walked four more days while encouraging the camel.

His body was exhausted and suffering from hunger. Even if the message window didn't pop up, his body was in such a bad state that he could barely walk. Finally, he was down to his last sip of water.

'I will die. Was I wrong about the Desert of Tranquility? I was so close to becoming a sculpting master only to die in the end.'

The camel's eyes were staring at the canteen.

It wanted the water it didn't think it would receive.

Weed poured water into the mouth of the camel.

'I can drink water anytime, but this would be your last.'

The camel was a NPC.

Even so, it had walked through the desert for more than two months.

Weed yielded the last drops of water to the camel.

"Kuoong."

The camel's body recovered a little bit after drinking the water.

"I am sorry but let's continue. I haven't died yet."

Weed didn't give up and continued moving towards the south.

The hot sun shone down on him.

-Dehydration symptoms have decreased health by 319.

Less than 10% health is remaining.

If the dehydration symptoms continue, you can receive a serious illness or lose your life.

Of his 70,000 health, less than 5,000 was left.

His vitality was also extremely low.

'It would be nice if an oasis appears. I couldn't overcome the Desert of Tranquility but at least an oasis...!'

He kept walking through his strong desire.

However, the water and food he desired didn't appear. Only endless sand ridges were visible.

After walking for an hour, Weed finally collapsed in the sand.

'I can't go on anymore.'

-The symptoms of dehydration have exceeded the limit.

You have lost control of your body.

You will lose consciousness.

Without water replenishment, you will lose your life.

The only thing left was death.

Weed was about to lose consciousness when he saw the camel's mouth getting closer.

'This guy...'

The camel's yellow teeth had headed towards Weed's neck.

'If you try to eat me, I will resist with the Power to Reject Death.'

Weed finally lost consciousness.

Snap.

The camel grabbed Weed's collar and continued to walk south.

"Puhuuung."

It marched through the desert at a steady pace. It crossed the ridges and headed towards the sun.

The nameless camel. Weed sometimes called it the dumb camel.

It was thirsty and at its physical limits. Yet it didn't stop walking.

Finally, the camel saw an oasis. It was a lake with clear waters and an extensive forest. It was a paradise where desert animals were playing.

"Kuhweeek."

The camel continued dragging Weed as it ran forward.

A oasis that was a mirage would disappear when people neared it, but that didn't happen now.

"Huhuhung."

The camel smelt it.

It could smell the forest and fresh water.

The travel weary camel plunged into the water with Weed.

*

“Kuck. M-my breath...”

Weed regained consciousness.

“Ugh, what the?”

He spat out the water in his mouth and found himself in a lake with clear water.

It was a paradise with animals and shady trees.

A sandstorm was in the distance but this place was peaceful.

An oasis in the Desert of Tranquility!

“It can’t be. This is a dream.”

Weed shook his head.

“There is no justice. There should be some compensation for my hopes and dreams. It is a world where cowards will win.”

He continued to grumble at the oasis.

Ddirring!

-You have found the legendary oasis in the Desert of Tranquility.

The legendary oasis hidden by Goddess Petra.

The Desert of Tranquility has been the grave of many travellers.

Travellers had wandered the sand in search of mystery, but only a few have found the oasis.

The blessing of those lost and dying.

Great luck is given to those who have discovered the oasis.

The title ‘Person who Walked through the Desert of Tranquility’ has been acquired.

Movement speed will become 45% faster in the Desert of Tranquility.

Due to Petra’s grace, you can arrive at the legendary oasis 10 times faster.

The time it takes to return to the north from the Desert of Tranquility

will also shorten.

When encountering a dangerous moment in the desert, health will temporarily increase by 125,000 for 5 minutes.

In non-desert areas, health will increase by 20,000 for 2 minutes.

Once activated, the effect will disappear for a week.

-As a discoverer, permanent benefits will be given.

Maximum vitality and mana has increased by 1,000.

Courage, charisma, luck, perseverance, endurance, charm and fighting spirit have all increased by 7.

If you report this discovery, additional fame and achievements will be rewarded.

“U-unbelievable. I am looking at the real thing.”

Weed dunked his head and drank the water.

Gobble.

Although the clear water was lukewarm, he kept on drinking it.

-Your thirst has been relieved.

Vitality has been restored to 80% of its original state.

Mana has regenerated.

The dizziness and dehydration symptoms have disappeared.

If the hydration continues for 3 hours, your physical state will almost return to normal.

The message windows that popped up!

“Finally, the hardship is over. The oasis in the Desert of Tranquility has been found.”

Weed glanced at the camel drinking next to him.

“Dumb camel. You lived. I think you saved my life bringing me to this place...”

Chap chap chap.

The camel kept drinking water from the oasis.

‘The camel is drinking.’

Weed’s face stiffened, but he couldn’t blame it for drinking the oasis water.

“Y-yes. You have to drink to live.”

He dreamt of a camel purse or bag but the subordinate had suffered for him.

If only Yellowy could see his master becoming a human!

Weed made a realistic and calm judgement.

“You gained some merits by bringing me here. So, I will excuse this. Anyway, I’m currently not in a position to give you money.”

“Puhueeeong.”

Weed finished rationalizing the camel’s behaviour.

*

Weed examined the message windows after his physical state returned to normal.

“Person who Walked through the Desert of Tranquility. It is a title associated with adventure and survival. The benefits are enormous.”

The increase in health just before death would be a big help for survival.

He wasn’t crazy enough to think about walking through the Desert of Tranquility again.

“Will there be benefits if I come again?”

It was like changing his mind after entering the bathroom.

He was tired of the sand, but now he was quite satisfied.

Weed looked around.

The camel was resting in a sand bit while all types of animals were drinking the water.

Ddiring!

-The rare Long Horned Deer has been found.

You will be rewarded if you closely observe the animal and report its characteristics.

“There is plenty of food. Anyway, there is currently no risk of dying.”

There were many rare animals and food at the oasis.

The trees had abundant, ripe fruit hanging from it.

“By the way, there is a house.”

He saw a shabby house built near the forest.

The house wasn't made from durable branches, but rotten pieces of wood.

“Somebody lived here?”

Weed thought about it as he approached the house.

“Among the users, I am probably the first to discover this place. If so, there is likely a high reward for finding the oasis in here.”

His heart started thudding.

It was a trend that occurred whenever he found a jackpot in Royal Road!

‘If I discover a treasure chest... No. Be vigilant. I might be hit in the back of the head.’

Before entering the house, he lowered his body and looked around.

The camel and other animals were staring at the strange human, but Weed didn't care about it.

‘There are no signs of life so it is unlikely to be an enemy attack, and I don't see a trap.’

The tension was enough to make his lips dry.

‘Will this house be a source of good or bad luck? If I look back on my life so far, I can’t guess at all. Should I just quietly make a sculpture?’

Weed shook his head.

If there were six numbers in the lottery, he would get five. It was impossible to match the last number so he would only receive the second-place prize.

Kiiik.

Weed finally opened the door of the house.

Unlike the external appearance that seemed like it would collapse, it was a well-appointed house with a bed, table, etc.

The table contained a sword, a book and a flag.

“There is a reward for the discovery. But that flag...”

Weed was surprised to see the markings of the flag.

“Isn’t this the flag of the Pallos Empire?”

During Nodulle’s quest, Weed had created the Pallos Empire.

Then, ‘eh I don’t know. It is barley bread or grass porridge. I will just do it roughly.’ Therefore he had created the crude form of a sword stabbed into a sack.

The mark was found in desert villages and was also found here.

“I can gain the items. The items have been left behind in an empty house. It is a typical pattern for a jackpot.”

Weed salivated as he turned his attention towards the sword.

“I am looking forward to it, but I will delay a little bit.”

He would leave the most delicious food to eat later.

He had to stop his right hand from instinctively grabbing the sword.

“Be cautious. Don’t be caught off guard.”

There was a chance that the sword was a cursed object.

The legendary oasis in the Desert of Tranquility.

Anything associated with it was likely to be a S grade difficult quest or higher.

Of course, the rating of the item would also be great.

Weed read the title of the old book.

-The Great Desert Warrior.

“Well, the title is fairly ordinary... This is!”

Weed’s eyes flashed.

It was due to the name of the person who wrote the book.

-Desert warrior Hestiger.

*

Yoo Byung-jin watched Weed’s boring desert crossing.

“Stupid. No matter how strong he is, even he won’t return alive.”

Weed didn’t give up. However, he was sure that he could survive the Desert of Tranquility.

Like his name, Weed was able to stop the Hermes Guild’s invasion of the Arpen Kingdom.

“How terrible. It is close to two months. Even though the situation on the continent was rapidly changing, why does he have a desire to go to the desert?”

Weed’s current position in the Arpen Kingdom meant he could obtain big profits.

He would be able to monopolize numerous quests on the Northern Continent and create the best hunting team.

Weed’s rapid hunting speed and growth in the dungeons meant he would be able to threaten the top rankers of Royal Road.

He gave up the obvious benefits in front of him and walked through the Desert of Tranquility. It wasn’t something that someone could easily do.

Yoo Byung-jin suddenly asked Versailles.

“Versailles. How much time did Hestiger take to conquer the Desert of Tranquility?”

History had changed due to Weed’s time travel.

Hestiger’s adventures were also an important part of history.

-143 days.

“Is that so? It is much longer than Weed.”

-Hestiger brought five camels with him. He only walked a certain distance in the Desert of Tranquility every day and made sure there was plenty of food and water.

The Desert of Tranquility was a place to test the limits of human patience.

Those who took a lot of food and water could go further in the desert. However, taking a lot of food and water wasn’t always the answer.

They couldn’t walk more than a minimum distance in the wide desert or there was the risk of death.

They also couldn’t rest too long in the desert. They had to walk diligently and endlessly.

The Desert of Tranquility was a difficult place to clear, even if they knew the answer.

Even after the level of the users was raised, it was likely to be one of the worst among the 10 forbidden zones.

“Weed’s perseverance is incredible.”

-He probably believes he can earn huge money by becoming a sculpting master.

“He is a big fan of money. Giving me 100 won less for hot chocolate... Wait, is that why Weed only took one camel?”

Yoo Byung-jin was baffled by this fact.

“It is surprising for someone like him. It is such a reckless and stupid thing to do.”

Weed had experienced it and knew that the Desert of Tranquility wasn't an easy place.

He had almost died from a lack of food or water in the past, so one camel wouldn't help. It was reasonable to bring a lot of camels loaded with food and water.

However, it was a trap that would make the desert harder to conquer.

“Don't tell me... Did he find a clue about the Desert of Tranquility?”

-I will analyze the reason.

Versailles searched through Weed's decisions and experiences so far to come to a conclusion.

Yoo Byung-jin thought for a moment.

‘From Continent of Magic to Royal Road. Perhaps he overcame numerous challenges due to his brain and instincts. Weed, he is a terrific guy the more I think about it.’

-The clue to the Desert of Tranquility is located in Petra's temple. It is buried under sand in the southern desert and no users have found it yet.

“Then?”

-Weed seems to have been scared by the price of the camel.

“What?”

-The camel was overpriced so he only bought one.

*

Two months had passed on the Versailles Continent since Weed disappeared.

In the first few days, numerous people gathered at Puhol Water Park to meet Weed.

The fanatics of the Grass Porridge Cult!

“Where is Weed-nim, Weed-nim!”

“I believe. Ohh. I believe in Weed-nim. For the glory of the Toadstool Porridge unit!”

“Now I should follow Weed-nim. Weed’s words and actions will be my moral guidelines. Weed!”

The grass porridge fanatics walked through Puhol Water Park and bowed at every one of Weed’s sculptures.

Some users had a strange atmosphere reminiscent of fanaticism, but there was no reason for it.

‘There is something funny.’

‘Um. I don’t feel like this. I should pretend harder to believe.’

‘Kyahahat. In this area, I am more crazy.’

Weed had defeated the Embinyu Church and built the Arpen Kingdom in the north, so many of his loyal fans joined the Grass Porridge Cult.

However, it had been a month since Weed appeared anywhere.

“He is at the hunting grounds.”

“He disappears like the wind. I don’t know when he will make another wonderful sculpture like the water park.”

Puhol Water Park had opened but there were still construction projects in progress.

The water park was crowded with handsome men and beautiful women. Naturally, Puhol Water Park was open 24 hours a day for admission fees and merchandise sales.

The glamour especially increased at night.

Before Weed left Puhol Water Park. His little sister Yurin had visited while he was making the sculptures.

“Oppa, can I do some work at the water park?”

“Uh, yes.”

“I understand.”

It was a short conversation typical for the brother and sister.

Yurin decided to show her skills as an Aqualight Painter at Puhol Water Park.

“Wake up. Yap!”

Yurin added light and colour to the water.

In the evening until the sun rose, there was a spectacular water and light show at the fountain. Below it, people ate delicious food and enjoyed dancing.

The brilliantly illuminated water park!

After Weed had been hiding for a month, the people of the Arpen Kingdom started talking.

“I want to hear some news about Weed.”

“I think he is on another tremendous quest. Sooner or later, we can see it through the broadcasts.”

“He is always living a hard life. He might be resting somewhere under Sculpture Transformation. A place like a resort.”

“Weed-nim isn't like that. He is hunting in the Arpen Kingdom. He is clearing unresolved dungeons. Doesn't he need to beat Bardray?”

The Haven Empire had an immense interest in Weed's actions.

After making the tax cut, the Haven Empire's security and economy was recovering.

Yet they wasted time trying to determine Weed's location.

“Is there any news or information?”

“He hasn't appeared anywhere.”

“Is it possible he is acting within the empire?”

“Not at the present time. But given his nature, we will raise the activities of the intelligence network.”

There would be restrictions on the user of the hunting grounds.

The Central Continent was famous for its hunting grounds and good quests so it was always flooded with people.

New skills and permanent stats could be obtained from the Central Continent.

“We have to stop Weed from getting stronger in the empire. Have assassins ready to attack as soon as he appears.”

“We will increase the assassination squads. Many users in the guild want to kill Weed.”

“Comparing Weed to a warrior... Sculpting keeps on seeming like a better job. It has somehow become stronger.”

Lafaye gave a small sigh.

If he was a swordsman, knight or warrior then they could take some measures against his skills.

Weed maximized the characteristics of a sculptor so his combination of skills was endless.

“It isn't good for us that we don't know what he is doing. Every time this happened, he shows off his amazing skills in a new quest.”

“Maybe he will die during a hunt or quest? It isn't uncommon for there to be deaths in unreasonable quests.”

“I wish it was that simple... Weed has the survival instinct of a cockroach.”

*

Weed was looking at a book written by Hestiger.

“A treasure map? Or a huge quest reward? Maybe it contains the place where he hid treasures of the Pallos Empire.

The list of chapters in the book was shown.

-The correct personality of a desert warrior.

- How to look after the weak.
- A person who overcomes greed will be successful.
- Building up precious pride
- Endless perseverance is needed to solve a bad threat.
- The original owner of objects that fall to the ground.
- If you concede once, you are proud. Concede twice and you are honourable.
- Take care of the people around you.
- There is no respect to those who don't take care of young children, the elderly and women.

“What is this?”

He had been filled with expectations but it was just filled with themes for reflection.

“I am glad that I didn't leave Hestiger as ruler of the Pallos Empire. Perhaps this continent would be filled with virtues such as kindness and devotion.”

Humans being kind and not criticizing each other.

Weed couldn't live in such a tough world!

Weed thought about writing an autobiography about his success in Royal Road.

- Taking away someone's property after hardships.
- Items that have no owner. The one who obtains it at the last moment will be the owner.
- If you close your eyes to injustice, you and your family will live a peaceful life.
- Listen to others, but don't give.
- A raised puppy can betray you.
- You will sleep well if you do actions that don't provoke your

conscience.

-Prepare for events that might involve the people near you. Don't extort unless you are prepared.

A brilliant wisdom when living in a rough world! It was a proverb for success in the modern world.

Of course, it wasn't easy to live in the world. However, it was easier if a person didn't care about others.

Those who wanted to help the poor would find themselves in difficult situations.

It was futile to insist on fairness rather than a shortcut.

Those who were criticized would reflect on their actions.

As king of the Arpen Kingdom, he sometimes felt happy when seeing the joy of the users.

He had gone through much mental suffering because of that.

"I have to overcome it. I can't be weakened. I have overcome numerous conflicts and temptations. The path of a dictator is lonely."

Weed quickly looked through Hestiger's book. And he found something a little bit different near the end.

-The Great Emperor of the desert.

"What is this?"

-Traces of the Great Emperor can't be found anywhere in the desert. After sweeping through the continent with the Pallos Empire's warriors, he disappeared somewhere.

Many warriors wanted to take the place of the Emperor.

They wanted to sweep away the weak senate and rule with absolute power.

The power of the Red Lion troops could change the world in a day. But as one of the founding members of the empire, I rejected their proposal.

“Foolish guy!”

Weed couldn't help sighing.

His ideals were always at odds with Hestiger. If someone cooked a meal then it should be eaten.

“It is the typical case of losing money while living a good life.”

-After defeating the Order of the Devils, I travelled the world with the elves.

I went to many places and found traces of a new world.

My fate led me into the Desert of Tranquility.

Beyond this place is a mysterious and dangerous world. Maybe this oasis will be the last place I can rest on my trip.

After Hestiger was revived using Sculpture Resurrection, he said that he went on some adventures after going through the Desert of Tranquility before arriving at the land of the giants.

“I came here just to find traces of Hestiger.

Weed continued reading the words while complaining.

-Those who come here will read this.

If you walked through the Desert of Tranquility then you would have felt it with your body.

The poor soil makes it hard to raise crops so the tribes needed to fight with our own strength.

There were endless disputes and everyone suffered until the Great Emperor ended the cycle.

“He understands it properly. Hmm hmm. The desert became a better place to live thanks to me.”

He hadn't wanted to hand over the Pallos Empire to Hestiger so he had created the senate system.

-I was able to be strong while accompanying the Great Emperor.

He jumped into dangerous battles where warriors risked their lives.

He was strict with the weak and cruel to the enemy.

Sometimes he has excessive discipline and unreasonable punishment for his men, but I only understood the deep meaning behind his actions later.

He was fighting a wicked group trying to take control of the world, while we were only thinking about fighting for the desert.

How could I not look up to such greatness?

I couldn't properly understand the heavy burden on the Great Emperor's shoulders.

After establishing the Pallos Empire, I felt a sense of pride for being part of it.

If you listen to the story of the Great Emperor and understand, then you are also part of the desert.

As a warrior who followed the Great Emperor, I will leave behind a small gift for any descendants.

I have left the skills I've learnt and the sword I received from the elves.

At the back of the book was a drawing of the handsome Hestiger wielding a scimitar.

Ddirring!

-You are the first user to find Petra's Oasis in the Desert of Tranquility.

You can learn the unique skills of a desert warrior.

Due to the limits of a sculptor, the desert warrior skills will be destroyed after 360 days.

The desert warrior skills will enhance your Affinity to Nature and perseverance.

-The desert warrior's ultimate battle skill Lava River has been acquired.

Lava River: It will create a column of superheated flame that will melt

the walls and earth like lava.

All obstacles in a straight line will be melted.

Lava flowing in the ground will explode when someone approaches.

The duration of the lava will vary depending on the heat.

An aura of fire will be added to the desert warriors.

The skill can restore health and strengthen attack power.

-The last attack skill of the desert warrior, Devastating Sandstorm has been acquired.

Devastating Sandstorm: The desert warriors have endured the harsh sun and wind.

The desert warrior can create a sandstorm centred around him that destroys everything.

Movement speed will increase by 165% and damage by 360% during the sandstorm.

There is a 35% chance that the souls of the desert warriors will be summoned together to attack the enemy.

“Lava River and Devastating Sandstorm!”

Weed’s chest moved like he was touched.

“He delivered it properly.”

He had been envious after seeing the revived Hestiger use Lava River. He felt like the reward for walking through the Desert of Tranquility was worth it.

“And this sword is a problem.”

Weed looked at the sword that belonged to the elves.

It seemed like a venerable old sword just by looking at it.

He had invaded the Central Continent during the quest and plundered many treasures, but this sword wasn’t among them.

It was a sharp, black blade with a blue gem embedded. An unfamiliar

energy wrapped around the sword.

“I just have to hope for a good weight and attack power... It feels like a magic sword.”

Weed agonized over choosing the sword.

Agatha’s Holy Sword and Kolderim’s Daemon Sword had been used for a considerably long time.

It was difficult to find good weapons that suited him. The Red Star couldn’t be used often in case the dragon appeared.

Weapons that enhanced swordsmanship or certain attack skills had their effect lessened due to Weed’s class.

He didn’t care about design or if the sword was famous.

“Well, I can obtain a free sword.”

It was like finding a savings account after three years.

“Inspect!”

-Loa Sword: Durability 65/65. Attack 145~265.

According to the elves’ ancient records, the sword was born in the ‘Peaceful Large Forest.’

An ancient creature called Kargulla emerged from hell and breathed fire over the trees and fields. Kargulla couldn’t be cut by anything and its injuries were quickly healed.

Just as humans and elves were in despair, the high elf Loa used the sword to defeat Kargulla. It far surpassed the humans’ best swords.

It is unknown who originally created it, but it has since been passed down as the treasure of the elves.

Restrictions: Level 650 or higher.

3,200 Affinity to Nature.

Options: Very light.

Agility +26%

Combat ability in the forest and mountains will improve.

All stats + 42.

There will be triple damage against large monsters.

Reduce the maximum health of the enemy by half of the damage inflicted. The effect will last for 1 hour.

When there is a critical strike, the opponent's defense will weaken by 7% and this will stack up to 63%.

You can borrow the energy of the fire, water, wind and earth elementals.

Defense +117.

When using a sword skill, mana consumption will be reduced by half.

Weaken magic protection by 76%.

Protection magic 'Big Forest' can be used.

An artistic sword.

Increase the owner's art stat by 35.

Big Forest: Health will recover by 35%.

Trees will grow around the user and protect them from enemy attacks for a maximum of 1 minute.

"Why are there so many options?"

His eyes widened as he read all the options.

"Increase damage, weaken defense and there is even a defense skill?"

It was like a comprehensive gift set where nothing could be thrown away! Weed couldn't believe it and checked the sword several times.

He doubted it was real and even bit the sword with his teeth.

Kwaduduk!

-Your teeth are broken.

Health has decreased by 378.

"It is the real thing."

Weed felt his whole body becoming energized.

“Good luck has come to me... I can't believe it but it is real.”

A picture of his family situation passed through his head.

In a house where electricity and gas were disconnected, he shared ramyun with his sister.

“If I had this sword then I would have been able to sweep away all the monsters. And how much would I get if I sell this at auction?”

An auction estimate wasn't possible.

It was a weapon with far better specifications than anything that had ever appeared at auction.

In fact, no user would be able to use it because of the level restriction or affinity to nature restriction.

However, there would eventually be a demand for more advanced weapons.

The weapon left behind by Hestiger was rare enough to be recorded in history.

Considering high quality weapons required blacksmith skills and special materials to be created, if he sold the sword then there would be people waiting in line.

There were Middle Eastern rich people who would buy rare weapons just for the sake of it, so there was no telling how high the price would go.

“I will use it.”

Weed made a decision.

His current level was 451 and he had 2,245 Affinity to Nature. Due to the blacksmith skill, Weed could use it immediately.

If he used new equipment then it would be more advantageous against the Hermes Guild and the stations would pay great attention.

“Thank you. Hestiger. You are paying me back in this manner.”

Weed looked around and found small stones near the oasis.

The stones were placed in front of the house as an altar and barley bread sacrificed to Hestiger.

“I will pray for you. Good luck next time.”

Despite the criticisms that were a result of his jealousy, Hestiger was a wonderful desert warrior and great for the Pallos Empire.

“Our ideas about justice might be different but our hearts are still the same.”

When converting it to a price, it was exactly less than 1 silver.

Weed decided to carefully read the book left by Hestiger.

There was a chance he could find treasures of the Pallos Empire. There were some disgusting parts but he had to read it.

-You have passed the test of the desert.

Now there is a great mission on your shoulders.

The accomplishments of the Great Emperor might disappear in the distant future Walk this path for the glory and prosperity of the Pallos Empire and the desert tribes.

Ddiring!

-Losers of the Desert

The glory of the Pallos Empire has been buried under an endless pile of sand.

The desert warriors have arranged for the resurrection of the Great Empire.

Honour and struggle flows in the blood of warriors.

The people of the desert have been waiting for someone with the strength to walk the path of the Great Emperor.

Gather the will and determination of the desert warriors.

If you pass the test of the desert, the desert warriors will be willing to

raise their swords and follow you.

Level of Difficulty: S

-Desert quest.

Compensation: You might be connected to the founding of the Pallos Empire.

Quest Restrictions: The recognition of the historic desert warriors.

-You have the greatest achievements in the desert.

The quest will be given by force.

-The quest has been accepted!

The Great Emperor Quest!

Many fragments of the quest related to the Pallos Empire and its emperor were scattered across the desert.

“Yes. I should have expected this. This guy can never just give me anything good. Haven’t I already achieved the founding of the Pallos Empire?”

There was a smile on Weed’s face that showed the adversity he had been through.

‘An S-class difficulty quest? It is like when Dogmeat was a puppy and my stomach growled with anger. I was hungry enough to eat two bowls of jajangmyun. I could clear the bowl and eat the dumplings!’

There was a lot of work to do in the future so he didn’t want a quest.

He needed to raise his low level and master sculpting, so there was no time to think of quests.

Nevertheless, the quest couldn’t make his mood turn bad.

“If I succeed in the quest later, I can sell dolls of the characters that appear on broadcast.”

He was already estimating the profit after it finished!

“But wasn’t there a quest in the Land of Big Footprints?”

Weed frowned a little bit.

It was a quest to go beyond the end of the world to find traces of the adventurer Lodsiker. It was a quest received from Hestiger who had been revived.

“This guy is really causing me trouble.”

*

Kwaaaang!

The ground shook from the giant’s kick.

“Spread out and attack. Maintain your focus.”

“Yes!”

“Let us succeed in the giant hunting!”

There were over a hundred users.

They scattered and worked as a unit to gain the giant’s attention.

The giant tried to grab the human and elven users but it didn’t work.

-Kuwaaaaaah!

-The giant Altamos has roared.

Fighting Spirit is broken.

Movement speed is reduced!

All skills have temporarily decreased by 36%.

Maximum health has halved.

All attacks received in the next 10 seconds will cause deadly damage.

A roar that caused their whole body to tremble.

Every time the giant walked, its feet would rip up tree roots from the ground.

“Squad 1 start attacking.”

“Yes!”

The users unleashed a barrage of arrows towards the giant.

The magicians cast gravity magic that slowed the giant.

“Attack!”

The users bravely rushed towards the giant.

Among them were Pale, Maylon, Romuna, Irene, Surka, Bellot, Hwaryeong and Zephyr.

“I believe in Pale-nim.”

“I will do my best. But wouldn't it be better for another archer to take command?”

Bellot said with a smile.

“Pale is the strongest and most decisive one among us.”

“I think you are overestimating me.”

“There is a clear reason that is undeniable. You are Weed-nim's battle slave.”

“...”

The Crimson Wings Guild discovered the giants.

The level of the giants was at least over 700. On average, most giants were around level 750.

It was a level difficult for the users to deal with, but the giants weren't highly skilled.

The giant had huge strength, size and attack power, but persistently attacking would eventually kill it.

“It is boring without Weed-nim so shall we go?”

“It will be dangerous.”

“Rather than following Weed-nim...”

“I acknowledge this.”

Pale and his friends were bored of hunting in the Arpen Kingdom so

they came to the land of the giants to play.

In addition, numerous strong players came to hunt in the land of the giants.

The Crimson Wings Guild were able to gain immense fame by opening new hunting grounds and treasures.

Users didn't win every battle with the giants so the efficiency wasn't good. Still, if they won then new metals and magic ingredients could be obtained so it was like a jackpot.

Users like Pale and his colleagues ran like ants.

Surka approached bravely and used her fists while Irene used healing magic on those who were fighting.

Numerous magic and physical attacks razed the giant as some users were killed.

“Kuooohhh!”

Once the giant's health was halved, they would try to escape but spirits of earth were summoned to stop them.

Traps were already installed on routes where they anticipated the giant would escape.

High level users in the north naturally became familiar with civil engineering works thanks to Weed.

They dug the ground in advance and placed blades that would weaken the giant's movements.

Zephyr used fishing line like a spider web and caught the giant's ankle.

The giant collapsed, receiving combined attacks from other users.

The videos of the battle against the giants went through tremendous analysis.

The users were vigilant until the end.

-The giant Altamos has entered his eternal rest.

Those who took part in the battle will receive military achievements with the god Atrock.

“Wahhhh!”

“Hooray! We did it!”

The users cheered loudly.

*

Weed took a moment to savour his new skills and equipment.

“I need to achieve my goal for coming to the Desert of Tranquility.”

It was to create some pieces without the help of the sculpting skill.

There was nothing special about the materials. Instead, he used the fine sand of the Desert of Tranquility and the water from the oasis to make mud.

‘Let’s start with the rabbit and fox sculptures that I’ve done countless times.’

The form was so familiar that he could create them with his eyes closed.

He trimmed the clay with his fingers and formed the shape of a rabbit.

Without the help of sculpting, the texture wasn’t smooth as marble and the tail and ears easily fell.

-Rabbit Sculpture

A rabbit created using earth from the oasis in the Desert of Tranquility.

A common and simple form.

Artistic Value: 2.

Weed looked at the sculpture he had made from the earth.

It was more like a cheap souvenir than what he normally sold.

“Well. My old days are surfacing. It is like I am making a real wooden sculpture.”

Sculpting was quite difficult. If he made even a small mistake or lost concentration then the value of the work would fall. In addition, he needed to constantly make new works.

“I crudely mass produced sculptures and then sold it over and over.”

He recalled the beautiful memories of his beginning days!

Due to the sculpting skill not working, the mud was hard to shape because using just a little bit more force would crush it.

“Let’s start over from scratch. I needed to understand the characteristics of the earth.”

Weed drank water from the oasis, ate fruits and made sculptures all night.

Fine sand grains weren’t a suitable material for sculpting.

But a real sculptor wouldn’t blame the materials.

Weed created mud by wetting his hand.

“There are plenty of free sculpting materials... No, this isn’t it. I need to throw away the past and make real sculptures.”

The sculpting material would heavily affect the art subject.

‘A sword master needs to go against stronger enemies. I won’t be able to master sculpting by making comfortable sculptures. Materials and skills. They both play a role.’

As the sun rose on a full day of work, Weed had completed 130 sculptures.

“It is done.”

The sculptures formed five lines in front of the oasis.

“If I add up all of the artistic values, it is approximately 250 points.”

All of the sculptures had artistic values of 1 or 2. It was understandable that his sculpting proficiency didn’t even increase by 0.1%.

“This isn’t it. Should I have just made a helium sculpture at Puhol

Water Park?”

In order to return to the Arpen Kingdom, he would need to cross the Desert of Tranquility again.

He had barely risen to the top of the mountain and the situation wasn't serious enough to go back.

*

Hard work and persistence.

It was a necessary part of a successful life, but Weed was beyond persistent.

“Make it, make it.”

He continued making sculptures even when the sun shone on the oasis or the night sky was filled with stars.

‘I can't just make anything. It is true that the help from sculpting is great, but I have accumulated experience and senses. How can I become a sculpture master if I can't create something without the skill?’

He felt like he needed to go back to the beginning.

‘I made a resolution to become a sculpting master.’

Weed recreated all the sculptures he had made so far.

-Tower of Light

A large tower made of clay.

It gives off a magnificent feeling.

Artistic Value: 74

He couldn't use sculpting so it was difficult to revive all the characteristics.

The Tower of Light brilliantly illuminated Morata at night, but this one was just a rugged tower.

‘People's hearts are important. Sculpting is an art. It isn't a technique. Swordsmanship can win over stronger enemies, but sculptures don't make

sense unless they touch a person.’

Weed made famous pieces.

His sculpture transformations such as the hummingbird, orc Karichwi and the barbarian warrior were all popular. Even the recent Squashy Wiggler was famous.

He had 0.5% proficiency remaining but it didn’t even increase by 0.1%.

He had a few expectations but it wasn’t that good.

“There is only 0.5% left. I need to increase my proficiency even by a little bit.”

He had walked through the Desert of Tranquility and endured the burning sun to make sculptures.

“Don’t give up. I won’t leave until I become a sculpting master.”

He thought about sculpting as he walked through the Desert of Tranquility.

The camel walked next to him but left after a few hours.

After having a lot of thoughts about loneliness and pain, he realized something.

“People who live in the desert.”

Weed had been impressed with them using the Nodulle and Hilderun quest.

There was a thrilling experience as he beat random monsters.

It was an enjoyable experience but he couldn’t pause because the quest had a time limit.

“The memories are still here. There is a sculpture I can make.”

Weed stacked sand and started to carve the shape of a person.

“Everything. Even though the memories and time we shared have disappeared.”

Weed still had clear memories of his time as the Great Emperor.

He sculpted the people who served him in the desert.

Thousands of desert warriors had followed Weed.

Some were killed in battles and only a few remained until the end of the Pallos Empire. But I made sculptures as I remembered them.

“A lot of the useless ones died early. I should have handled them better...”

Weed relied on his memories and also used some shortcuts.

At that time, the hunting scenes and quests were relayed through the broadcast. He could make sculptures by referencing the videos.

Of course, it was difficult to express the personality and feelings of a person just by looking through the video. It was impossible without understanding the individual characteristics and personality of a person.

Weed realized this experience as he systematically made the sculptures.

“It is a little bit better.”

It was good to make sculptures out of sand since he could modify any mistakes.

“It looks like this the day before. Hrmm.”

Weed’s sculptures slowly filled up the empty spaces in the oasis.

At first, he just tried to create some of his subordinates.

“I don’t think it is perfect. The wind will blow the sand away so I need to make it quickly.”

He sculpted the weapons, clothes and unusual postures of the men.

“It is still insufficient.”

Most of his subordinates had ridden camels.

It was unfortunate but Weed had to start the sculptures from scratch again, this time adding the camels.

The appearance of the fierce desert warriors who rode camels while holding the scimitars!

The desert warriors faced the rough sands, winds and hot sun.

As their forms became more complicated, half of the elaborate works were destroyed.

“Let’s make it again. Until I really like it.”

He focused on expressing the hopes and dreams of the desert warriors of the Pallos Empire.

Time passed by slowly. However, he was so engrossed in the work that he had no concept of time.

One day, two days passed until time became meaningless. He would often destroy and start again in the middle.

Weed wouldn’t stop until it was perfect!

“I have to be more efficient.”

He made a machine to knead the water and soil separately.

The camel and innocent animals of the oasis would be mad to turn a large grindstone.

“If you don’t work then you will be my dinner today.”

Forced labor and exploitation! It was tough for the animals living at the oasis.

He was the Great Emperor that crushed the continent and now he was the tyrant of the oasis!

The clay formed by the animals were firmer and easier for Weed to handle.

“A lot of good people is needed to be successful. You really can’t live alone in this world.”

The sculptures took less time to make.

There was a limit to what he could do with the soil, but he used his fingers to make elaborate expressions.

In the end, there were thousands of desert warriors, the young men of

the desert who died early.

The elite desert warriors made their appearance in the Desert of Tranquility.

One was the best sculpture.

The appearance of the unusually handsome Hestiger was made out of clay. Weed lowered the nose a little bit, but it wasn't much different from the original.

“Now it is my turn.”

Weed started to shape himself in the clay.

He was sitting on the back of Bactrian Camel with his scimitar raised and roaring loudly!

He increased the leg length to improve the ratio of the body and sharpened basic features.

“This is really... It is my natural appearance. This is the best work that I can do. The materials could have been better but... The most valuable sculpture. Still, what if I had used high quality materials?”

He made desert warriors while fighting a sandstorm.

Because of that, there were no regrets.

Ddirring!

-Please set the name of the new sculpture.

“This... The Great Emperor and Children of the Desert?”

-The Great Emperor and Children of the Desert is correct?”

“No. It is a little childish... It doesn't need to be annoying. Just have it as Desert Brothers.”

They were subordinates but he had many fun memories with them.

Everyone dreamed of exhilaration while adventuring in Royal Road. Conquering the continent with the desert warriors was indeed a great adventure.

It was several hundred years ago so it was hard to find any traces of the Pallos Empire now.

-Desert Brothers is correct?

“That’s right.”

Ddiring!

-Magnum Opus! Desert Brothers has been completed!

An enduring magnum opus created in the legendary oasis of the Desert of Tranquility!

This sculpture was completed by a sculpture on the last step in the ultimate road.

It is a sculpture made in a place where no one can come, a legendary place that requires endless perseverance and a sense of challenge.

The warriors of the desert’s greatest moment.

The sculpture created by the sculptor’s pure effort and sweat will become one of the highest valued treasures of the desert.

Artistic Value: 13,800.

Special Options: Desert Brothers will increase health and mana regeneration by 55% for a day.

Birthrate and health status of camels in the desert area will increase by 86%.

Movement speed will rise by 26%.

All stats will increase by 45%.

The wind attribute will increase by 33%.

Intermediate level 5 or less swordsmanship will permanently have their proficiency increased.

Perseverance and Fighting Spirit have permanently increased by 10.

Warriors will have their physical attributes doubled in the presence of sand.

The effect doesn't overlap with other sculptures.

Current number of Magnum Opus created: 19

-The skill proficiency of Sculpting has improved.

-Fame has increased by 850.

-Art stat has increased by 64.

-Perseverance has increased by 49.

-Endurance has increased by 16.

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

-The Desert Brothers sculpture has been assigned as one of the wonders of the south.

Increases the likelihood that descendants of the desert warriors will be born.

They will have excellent fighting spirit and combat capabilities.

Warriors who see this sculpture can learn combat skills.

Weed had suffered a lot so he only expected a fine piece of masterpiece. Creating a magnum opus was more than he thought.

"Let me see. Sculpting skill confirmation!"

-Sculpting Advanced Level 9 (99.8%): You can create sculptures.

Beautiful sculptures will be sold at high prices. Make honourable sculptures and you can spread your name through the continent.

"It went up 0.3%."

The compensation was small compared to his three months of suffering in the southern desert.

But he also obtained Hestiger's legacy left behind in the Desert of Tranquility so it wasn't a bad result.

"There is only a little bit more left and then I will no longer have to grind again."

He somehow felt sad when he thought about no more sculpting labour.

Ddirring!

-A long time has passed since the Versailles Continent was created.

“Huh? What is this?”

Suddenly a message window popped up and a mystical female voice could be heard from the sky.

-The earth was covered with warm sunshine, moist rain and growing plants.

In the sea and on land, living creatures came to know joy and sadness.

“Another quest?”

-The creatures live fierce lives and didn't hesitate to leave intense emotions.

As humans expressed ecstasy and pain and civilization grew, it led to spiritual abundance.

Goddess Hestia has invited the human who reached the highest level in the arts.

-Sculpting a New Miracle has been completed.

The secret technique Sculpting has been created with your hands.

It wasn't officially reported to the Freya Church. However, the goddess is always watching you and is happy to see that a new sculpting technique has been born.

The secret sculpting technique.

It was the last stage in the Sculpting Master Quest. Although he completed the skill, he still needed to report it.

Obtaining the final secret sculpting technique and the war with the Haven Empire had delayed his report.

By the way, a message window stating that the Sculpting Master Quest was completed shone. In addition, the message led to the final stage!

“This is perhaps... The real process of becoming a master?”

A rotten smile was trying to spread on Weed's face.

-Will you accept Goddess Hestia's invitation?

Once the invitation is accepted, you will proceed to the final stage of becoming a sculpting master.

It would be stupid to deny the final stage of becoming a sculpting master.

He had gone through tremendous efforts until he received the invitation of the goddess.

Weed arrogantly raised his chin to a 45 degrees angle.

“Well, I am busy but I will accept the invitation.”

-You have accepted Goddess Hestia's invitation.

A spectacular staircase made of light descended from the sky towards the oasis.

“It means I need to ascend on foot.”

He noticed at least 100 steps.

Weed quickly climbed the stairs of light.

The stairs were alight with the flames that were Goddess Hestia's symbol.

“It is pretty amazing.”

Weed climbed the stairs made of light and fire into the sky.

The stairs where he passed faded away.

Only the stairs in front of him remained.

‘If this scene is later shown on broadcast... Huhu, really awesome.’

After 30 minutes.

Weed had reached a fairly high place and looked down.

Due to the fact that there were no mountains and lakes, the desert

stretched out endlessly below him except for the oasis.

‘My legs are a little sore. And why is it so scary? It is alarming when the wind blows.’

He enjoyed flying through the clouds at high altitudes on Wy-3.

At that time, he still felt confident because he could use his skills.

“I have to keep on going up. My body is still conditioned from the Desert of Tranquility.”

And two hours later.

-Extreme physical activity has caused severe fatigue.

Maximum vitality and health has decreased.

The sea beyond the desert was now visible.

“Huhuhuk. Why is it so high? I can’t go back again!”

Weed clung to the stairs of light with his arms and legs as he crawled up.

*

“This isn’t it.”

“My sword is much better.”

Since Weed left, Fabio and Herman who were working on the helium occasionally fought.

“Look at mine. Can’t you feel the dignity of the sword?”

“What dignity? It is old-fashioned. This sharp sword gives off anticipation. And the metal processing is flawless.”

“A sword is different from armour. My will and direction is right.”

“If you are a real blacksmith then you should be able to deal with metals as needed. There are limits to your form.”

“What? What did you say?”

“It is only the beginning. I will teach you about blacksmithing.”

Fabio and Herman were both in their mid-40s so they were stubborn.

They tried to make the strongest sword with helium through cooperating, but it was impossible for them to coordinate.

One was the dwarf who reigned as the greatest blacksmith on the continent and the other was the best sword craftsman.

The characteristics of a blacksmith was pride and stubbornness.

Fabio was stern while Herman was kind to people. At this age, prestige was meaningless to them.

“This will be a competition.”

“Okay. That is what I wanted. The one who makes the best sword will be eligible to use this helium.”

“I will accept the competition.”

Fabio and Herman set the helium aside and proceeded on a competition to make a sword out of steel.

It took over a month and the stations became involved, but the result was ambiguous.

The performance of Fabio’s sword was slightly better but Herman’s was more perfect and beautiful.

They considered each other opponents and couldn’t be satisfied with this result.

“Once again.”

“This time I will show you what a real sword is.”

Fabio won with a slight difference in the rematch.

He made a historic sword.

It was a rare experience for a blacksmith.

The helium finally entered Fabio’s hands. But Herman smiled from behind him.

“The game isn’t over yet. I am the one who will make a really legendary

sword.”

Herman also had some helium to make a sword.

In fact, this was one of Weed’s conditions.

“Melt the Goddess’ Knight Armour. Can you reuse it to make a better product?”

“Are you really giving it to me?”

“Yes. And I heard that the Great Emperor quest involves master blacksmiths.”

“Oh. Was there such information? I thought they were just killing randomly.”

“Conquer the Central Continent and kill any blacksmith master that they meet.”

“ ... ”

“In order to increase your proficiency in the final stage, a special or legendary sword needs to be produced.”

“If the sword... So far I’ve only been able to make one.”

“Making the best sword is a basic condition to becoming a blacksmith master. Just like a sword master needs to succeed in a hunt or a great adventure. You have to be reputed throughout the continent to be recognized as a blacksmith master.”

“It isn’t a simple problem.”

Herman noticed that Fabio was at a standstill despite making so many good swords.

There were many good swords but he couldn’t make the best sword.

Fabio had collaborated with the Hermes Guild early on and worked with many rare materials, but he didn’t focus on the sword.

The Hermes Guild users that held his weapons focused on stable hunting rather than dangerous quests.

“Fabio will come here in order to process the helium. In order to stop him from becoming a master, have a competition with him and waste time.”

“Really?”

“Yes. No matter the results of the competition, just draw it out longer.”

Fabio came to the Arpen Kingdom to acquire helium and ended up wasting time in the competition.

*

Despite her berserker profession, Seo-yoon put down the sword.

‘I don’t want to fight unless I am guarding him.’

She found peace and stability of mind.

Other ranking users quickly surpassed her level.

But during Weed’s absence, Seo-yoon took charge of the Arpen Kingdom.

*

The Earth Palace.

The Grand Hall, a place where the king and high ranking nobles would gather together to discuss policies.

The main figures of the Arpen Kingdom were gathered together in one place.

There were as many as 300 people!

It started with Morata but the Arpen Kingdom became so wide that a large number of users lived in it.

Residents who were representatives of the cities and users with outstanding skills attended.

The lords of the northern colony who recently joined were also present.

Three months later, they had become permanent lords of the Arpen Kingdom.

“The Arpen Kingdom is the way to go. I would rather focus on internal stability than war with the Haven Empire.”

“Leave the Haven Empire alone? Do you think they will give up their dirty ambitions?”

“We needed to strengthen our army. The money of the Arpen Kingdom is just being poured into civil engineering works.

“But isn’t that ignoring Weed’s decisions? Consider the Grand Buildings, Puhol Water park, beautiful bridges and transportation network that connects the vast land. There is urban construction and economic development. The general users have welcomed Weed’s policies.”

“Good results aren’t the only things that matter. You have to look at the process. One person making arbitrary decisions...

“Weed-nim is king so he qualifies. In the first place, isn’t this Weed’s kingdom?”

“We aren’t slaves. We are lords so we can speak. That’s enough.”

“If the budgets of the civil engineering projects are reduced then the architects will ignore it. We should show more respect to the architects.”

There were a huge variety of representatives. Politicians couldn’t be excluded from this meeting.

King Weed monopolized kept positions and administrative decisions.

The senior lords were firmly against this.

While they were arguing loudly, Seo-yoon who was acting as the interim ruler emerged.

“...”

It was so silent that the sound of a needle dropping could be heard.

‘Beautiful.’

‘The Goddess. Not just the Grass Porridge Cult but Goddess of the whole world.’

‘Kuoooh. Today I can properly see the Goddess.’

Seo-yoon laughed softly and said.

“Weed-nim has been away for a long time. So he requested that I attend in his place instead. There are unavoidable circumstances but I apologize before starting this meeting.”

The lord of Vent Castle.

Oberon the leader of the Cold Rose Guild shook his head.

“Things can occur at any time while living so there is no need to apologize. We can’t accept it. Please take a seat.”

“Oberon’s words are good. You don’t have to apologize at all.”

“That’s right!”

The users gathered in the Grand Hall felt sad about Seo-yoon’s apology.

‘It doesn’t matter if he comes later or doesn’t come at all. That is...’

‘It isn’t unpleasant that Weed-nim hasn’t come. Thank you so much.’

‘I hope he continues not to come... There is no need for him to.’

The people were endlessly generous.

Seo-yoon briefly said thanks and then started the agenda for the meeting.

“I heard there was an official demand for the Arpen Kingdom to reduce its civil works.”

“ ... ”

Silence.

No one could say anything.

‘The civil engineering works. Who said such a thing? Ahh. I don’t remember anything. I’m just sucked in by her beauty.’

‘Goddess. Oh. Goddess...’

Seo-yoon searched the records.

“Monak-nim of Lund City has publicly criticized the civil engineering projects. Since you are here, can you tell me a more accurate opinion? If you have any complaints then please tell me.”

Monak was one of the top 1,000 powerhouses of Royal Road and was lord of the port city of Lund.

Everyone’s gaze moved towards Monak. Their faces all contained frowns.

“Eh... That...”

Monak stood up and said.

“The civil engineering works... The commitment of manpower in some areas is very inefficient... Ah, no. I guess I was wrong. I thought wrongly. The current policies of the Arpen Kingdom are perfect.”

Seo-yoon smiled softly.

She was glad that people praised Weed’s policies.

The lords were very satisfied after seeing her smile.

“Substitute Queen-nim. I have a proposal.”

Caldes who was famous for his reticence raised his hand.

“Tell us.”

“Yes. A large scale mine was found in the mountains near my city. Doesn’t the Arpen Kingdom have a shortage of minerals? If there is financial support then I can develop it quickly.”

“That is a good idea. Send me the correct data, I will review it and give you an answer by tomorrow.”

“Thank you.”

Seo-yoon skillfully handled the administration tasks.

The lords didn’t make any unreasonable demands. The arguments that typically made meetings long disappeared.

There was a serious and enjoyable debate about the development of the

Arpen Kingdom.

‘I have to remain as the lord of the Arpen Kingdom.’

‘If the Haven Empire tries to conquer the north then I will resist.’

‘Um... I need to maintain this position for my son. He has to inherit.’

Politics and sides didn't matter around Seo-yoon.

*

Weed climbed the light stairs despite the pain.

Numerous stars were close to him.

Below the Versailles Continent looked like a beautiful blue planet.

Without Hestia's blessings, he would have died from a loss of vitality.

As Weed ascended the stairs, he stared closely at the blue planet. The terrain and sea were dimly visible through the clouds so he was able to find signs of Morata and the Arpen Kingdom.

It was a very beautiful planet but Weed didn't have the time to dwell on that. It was like walking down the street and finding money 400 metres away.

‘There is a new continent beyond the Plains of Despair. No one has been there yet... It is fairly wide. That is the entire form of the Desert of Tranquility. There is a dungeon area. And the 10 forbidden zones...’

He placed the overall picture of the planet in his head. He didn't know when it would be useful.

Even if he forgot about maths or English, Weed remembered all the miscellaneous knowledge about Royal Road!

Finally, a large circular altar appeared at the end of the stairs of light. Goddess Hestia was waiting for Weed at the altar full of flames.

‘Is it dangerous?’

Weed walked towards the altar.

-You are a human who has reached the end of the arts. Welcome to the

realm of the gods. This is the first time a human has come here.

Hestia's affectionate voice.

Weed had gone through many experiences so he carefully kneeled down before the altar.

"I am a busy traveller and diligent sculptor. I think that the world and lives created by the gods are a beautiful sculpture. So I dedicate my glory to Goddess Hestia. Goddess. This is the realm of the gods?"

-It is a place where gods exist. To be precise, it is the place where the realm of the gods connects to the human world. Usually there are guards. After going past the altar, you will be in the realm of the gods.

Weed looked around.

There were lights floating in the shape of various creatures. If there were any intruders then they would materialize and attack.

'They seem really strong.'

He had a gut feeling that he had to be at least as strong as Hestiger to break through.

'If there are guards then it would be worth it. The gods would certainly have treasures. It would be nice if I could steal them all.'

Weed entered another piece of information into his head.

-You sculpt beauty into the world. Now I will give you a great mission.

"Tell me anything. I will follow Goddess Hestia's words."

The possibility of a forced quest was high so Weed decided to look at it positively.

-As a sculptor, you would have had many regrets in your life.

"Of course, it is natural... Ah, nothing."

Weed involuntarily answered.

Fortunately, Hestia didn't pay attention and kept on talking.

-A multitude of art works have been left in the world.

There is a wide variety of sizes and shapes.

It is recorded in history, moved people's hearts and led to the development of civilization. But as a human, you can't exceed the limits of the materials.

Weed listened to Hestia's words.

The theme of the sculpture was important, but the characteristics of the materials also needed to be considered.

Fine materials would allow great and small details.

Weed envisioned the sculptures he created in his head.

-As a sculptor, you will open a new path in the road of art. So I, Hestia will give you a chance.

Weed swallowed his saliva.

'The Goddess called me here to give me a chance. Something big is going to happen. A quest with a huge reward? I wish for a lot of money.'

-You will go beyond the limits of a human being.

"Beyond the limits?"

-Your sculpture will become a part of this world and everyone will be able to see it. By doing so, you will be able to challenge the most extreme form of art.

Ddirring!

-Sculpting Master's Challenge

The sculptor Weed has made a myriad of sculptures.

The Goddess Hestia has given him a new opportunity.

Use the power of the gods to create a sculpture of a star!

Make a big star that will illuminate the night sky of the Versailles Continent.

Cutting, melting or any other method can be used.

The sculptor's star will illuminate the world forever.

Depending on the nature of the work a blessing will be given. The blessing will be applied to your other sculptures.

If the final sculpture before becoming a master fails, the quest will end with failure and Goddess Hestia will be disappointed.

Hestia has given you the power of material creation, free flight and fire.

You won't be able to lose your life in outer space, but the benefits of immortality will disappear once you step on the ground.

Level of Difficulty: Sculpting Master Quest

Compensation: Sculpting Master.

The glory of Hestia's gift.

Quest Restrictions: 99.8% advanced level 9 sculpting skill.

If the quest fails, 10% of the sculpting skill proficiency will be lost and fame will be reduced by 35,000.

The final stage of the Sculpting Master Quest!

Sculpting a star!

Weed licked his lips.

'The last piece is really on an awesome scale.'

There was a pile of rotten wood left on the planet.

A star might look small compared to the sun or the moon, but the pride and glory of his star being among them would be enormous.

'My name will be linked to a star. Of course, land speculation or viewing fees would be impossible. Well. That is too bad.'

-Hestia's power has been granted.

You can create a star only once.

An unlimited amount of fire can be handled for this sculpture.

You can fly in outer space.

From now on, you won't be able to die until the quest is completed.

However, going down to the world of humans will be regarded as abandoning the quest and your body will be destroyed.

Weed made a fist.

“If I do this then I will become a real master. I will finally become a sculpting master.”

Credits

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