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When Daniel started to get the hang of the ax, Ryan decided to change the terrain around them a little bit. Given the number of monsters in the city, any changes that he might make in a few minutes wouldn't be that useful. However, at the very least, some holes to make the monsters fall and prevent the corpses from troubling his vision would help. Ryan also some towers of earth, and they would give him and the other long-ranged fighters a good idea of how the fight was proceeding.

"Man, you are an archer, but you can do more things with magic than me," Tristan forced a depreciative smile. "I guess I need to clear dungeons more often."

That was the right mindset for someone who truly wanted to improve. Regardless, the time has finally come. The frontline gave the sign to the backline that they were ready, so Ryan only had to deal the first strike, and then the fight would start.

Since Ryan didn't want to risk breaking any of his magic items, he decided to use Power Shot with his crossbow. However, after a while, even his most powerful weapon started to tremble and lose durability. It couldn't be helped since Ryan used dozens of potions to cause one heck of a first strike.

In the end, Ryan only stopped when he did the same as before: he charged his Power Shot for five seconds. When he pulled the trigger, immediately sent flying backward for several meters, but before he could land, his attack hit the army of monsters, and he recovered all his mana. Thanks to it, he used Telekinesis to stop.

Unlike before, his attack wasn't concentrated due to the fact that the projectile wasn't the Paralyzing Spear. However, thanks to that, the energy of his attack propagated even more and killed hundreds of Chupacabras at the same time. Even from two kilometers away, Daniel and the others felt the ground trembling.

"Holy shit... Ryan has the power of several warships," Tristan laughed while his face was completely pale.

“Focus,” Ryan said after he resumed his position. “They are coming.”

While everyone waited for the monsters to come, Ryan started to pull the trigger of his crossbow nonstop. Only Natalia could see the monsters in the distance getting hit by the poisoned bolts and then getting killed after a few seconds of agony from that group.

The others could only see a dark wave that was the monsters clustered in the same place as they charged.

However, after a while, even for those who didn't have good eyes and a lot of points in dexterity, it became clear that Ryan's attacks were decimating the monsters. Those creatures were supposed to have reached them a long time ago, but Ryan's shots decreased their speed considerably. Somehow... he could fire ten bolts per second and at the same time hit his targets... all of them. Not that it was hard for him, given how close to each other the monsters were.

When the monsters were five hundred meters away from them, Natalia and Tristan began to attack as well. Their spells and arrows flew in a wide arch before hitting the monsters. Missing was literally impossible, but killing them with a single attack wasn't possible for them either. The more the monster approached the driver, their throats got.

“I think Ryan lost his mind,” Tristan said. “Even if he can kill ten of them per second, we won't win this battle.”

“I didn't raise you to be a coward,” Natalia said. “Just focus on slowing down the monsters if you are not confident in your firepower.”

Angela began to make the hammer spin. Although she needed to focus on making full use of her Telekinesis, even her ears feeling and hearing her heartbeat like a drum.

“I got this. I got this,” Angela muttered.

A few meters behind them, Daniel, Holland, Lilian, and Luke, were watching the monsters approaching. All of them, at some point, wondered why they didn't question 'battle plan', not even a little bit. Given

how many items and things he could do, they assumed that his battle experience made him a good strategy, but it was clear that they were wrong. Ryan was just an insane guy...

However, those thoughts vanished from their head while they watched Ryan killing the Chupacabras like a machine built only to do that.

“This is it, Holland,” Daniel said. “If we fail at stopping the monster’s charge, we can’t consider ourselves men anymore. If a single person like Ryan can do this much, at the very least, we need to stand to our ground.”

“Although you are an idiot, I can understand you a little,” Holland said and then sighed. “In any case, one that things have come down to this, it is do or die. Let’s do it and return with a lot of loot.”

As for Lilian and Luke, they didn’t say anything. Since they were martial artists, they knew how to keep their focus even in that crazy situation. After ten seconds... the army of Chupacabras finally reached the place they were.

Although Ryan killed more than one thousand monsters just in the time the monsters moved toward him, it looked like his actions had been for naught. Even though he was killing ten monsters per second and the front line was finishing off the monsters damaged by the backline, and that added more or less five Chupacabras being killed per second. It wasn’t enough...

For the time being, Daniel was healing himself thanks to the ax fast enough to keep fighting. The paralyzing spear was also helping Holland a lot. Still, even though Lilian and Luke were working together using the effects of the gauntlets, they were being pushed back, and that was putting a lot of pressure on the other two. Ryan had to do something and something fast before the situation could get even worse.

Class: Hunter Lv 55 (+ 05 UP / Elementalist Lv 50 (+ 03 UP)/ Monk Lv 16 (–)

Race: Night Demon /Reptilian/ Ice Fox (–) p???(?)???

Rank: 331st

Health: 669/669 (3,05/s)

Mana: 1224/1224 (3,05/s)

Stamina: 978/978 (3,05/s)

Strength: 30 (+157) (+130)

Dexterity: 1050 (+810) (+57)

Speed: 70 (+372) (+48)

Intelligence: 80 (+365) (+3)

Endurance: 27 (+111) (+130)

Control: 06 (+398) (+10)

Mentality: 07 (+31) (+30)

Luck: 74 (+9)

Recovery: 700 (+833) (+300)

Willpower: 29 (+30)

Coins: 12.782.333

Status: 00

Skill List

Offensive Physical Skills: Power Shot Lv 67 (+ 05 UP), Hawkeye Lv 21 (+ 08 UP)

Passive Physical Skills: Eagle Eyes Lv 56 (+ 05 UP), Concentration Lv 56 (+ 05 UP), Archery Lv 56 (+ 05 UP), Accuracy Lv 56 (+ 05 UP), Art of Sniping Lv 52 (+ 04 UP), Sell Lv 01,

Spells: Incomplete Reptilian Transformation Lv 27 (+ 04 UP), Active Spiritual Recovery Lv 49 (+ 04 UP), Strength Augmentation Lv 01, Deconstruction Lv 01,

Support Skills: Sleep Resistance Lv 27 (+ 04 UP), Nocturnal Eyes Lv 27 (+ 03 UP), Gravity Resistance Lv 07 (+06 UP)

Classes:

Combat: Archer Lv 45 (+ 07 UP), Combat Archer Lv 28 (+ 11 UP), Sniper Lv 21 (+ 09 UP),

Non-Combatant:

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Ryan forced his field of vision to expand while he fired and the bolts nonstop. Then, he focused his mind on a certain point a few meters ahead of Daniel and Holland. Even though his aim was constantly changing places, he made sure to maintain that place as the center of his field of vision, and then when he felt comfortable enough, Ryan used Ice Storm.

Just as expected from a skill Ryan never used before, the damage caused was laughable. However, the cold winds slowed down the monsters and froze some of them. After just a few seconds, the pressure on Daniel and Holland decreased, and they stopped from being pushed backward.

“Focus on covering for Lilian and Luke,” Ryan declared. “I will cover for those two.”

When the backline hears that, they thought that Ryan had gone mad once again. There was no way he would be able to keep an area of effect spell active while firing bolts that fast.

However, much to their surprise, Ryan manages to do that and much more. They could see with their eyes alone the power and scope of the spell increasing.

“I had forgotten of how crossbows are so useful... as much as I train, using bows will never be as fast and as convenient as using crossbows.”

“We are holding them back! Holy crap, Ryan,” Tristan said. “How the heck can you recover so much mana?”

“If you didn’t notice, all of us can obtain an unlimited number of classes. If you combine the skills of some of them, you can pretty much create several cheating builds,” Ryan replied. “Anyway, focus on the task ahead. If we mess up, the monsters will jump on their neck, and they will become easy targets.”

If Ryan could trust others, he could easily help some survivors become stronger with the right classes and skills. One of those was by combining an archer that uses crossbows and has the sage class. It was a pretty powerful combination. Even early on, they could become powerful. The survivors just would have to focus on increasing their dexterity. However, since he couldn’t trust anything aside from his summoned monsters and tamed beasts, he had no plan of spreading around that kind of knowledge. He was already betrayed once, although Ryan could be betrayed in the future again, at the very least, he won’t give the tools to others and make those possible betrayals more painful.

In the end, despite all that fighting, the vampires never showed up. If they had come, Ryan was one hundred percent sure that he and the others would be forced to run, but it looked like some pop-culture knowledge about vampires wasn’t absolutely bullshit. That made Ryan wonder... why the hell those mythical creatures had the same weakness as humans imagined them to have? Their existence was already enough as it is, but to such information to be accurate...

Before Ryan could come up with a logical explanation, something weird happened. The Chupacabras stopped their charge and then started to retreat toward Monterrey. Ryan sighed when he saw that... he should have expected that. Not all creatures were prideful like dragons.

“We... we won!” Tristan jumped and then raised his arms to the sky.

“Stop fooling around,” Ryan said. “We are going to chase them and eliminated as many as possible before they spread and hide inside the city.”

“What about the loot?” Holland asked while he was using the Paralyzing Spear to keep himself standing.

“No one will approach this sea of corpses so easily,” Ryan replied. “We are just going to hunt a few more of them for the sake of convenience. We won’t lose more than half an hour.”

Although the backline was physically fine, they were mentally exhausted, with Ryan being the sole exception. As expected, even though the monsters never reached them, the pressure was something else.

As for the frontline, they were physically and mentally exhausted. Ryan used Stamina Restoration to solve one of the problems, but even though he gave them some mana potions, Daniel and the others still looked pretty beat down. Despite that, they followed Ryan to keep a decent formation while killing the monsters. That being said, only Ryan had the range to attack them, so the others only followed him for the sake of appearance.

“Jesus Christ... look at this mountain of corpses,” Daniel said with a frown on his forehead. “I can’t believe we caused this.”

“Look at this mountain of items,” Holland grinned from eating to ear. “I can’t believe that half of this is going to a single archer.”

“Half... that was funny,” Ryan laughed.

“Despite your calm demeanor, you are quite a greedy follow, huh,” Holland laughed.

“No, I am just not stupid,” Ryan said. “Still... I would feel bad for not rewarding those who came to help me. Well, maybe I should be greedy.”

“Oh? I like a reasonable man,” Holland said. “So, can I keep the spear?”

“Keep dreaming,” Ryan said. “The job isn’t over yet, but you can take the best item you can find among the loot and one tome as well.”

When they heard that, even those who were exhausted recovered their vigor. They were fully aware that Ryan did most of the work, so they couldn’t help but be excited about his words. Since the fight might become even more difficult inside Monterrey, they would need that power up. Besides, Ryan didn’t find anything worthwhile among the loot when he took a quick glance. At best, the most powerful weapons were one tier below his magic weapons. It was only natural, though, since Ryan obtained those magic items by killing powerful bosses.

Despite his generosity, Ryan still managed to get his hands on three magic rings of the immortal, and that boosted his recovery considerably. As for tomes, Ryan only was interested in one: Electric Bullet. All the others he already its respective skills. So, he let Daniel and the others use them after they paid him some coins.

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“What now, Ryan?” Daniel asked after the question of the loot was solved, and everyone obtained some new pieces of gear. “We killed around forty percent of that army, right?”

“It looks you can at least do the math right’! You are correct,” Ryan nodded. “However, for the time being, we should retreat. “Even though we decreased their numbers by that much, we still will lose if we fight at night and all the bosses come to attack us.”

“They are that powerful, huh,” Lilian said. “Considering that you are cautious for a change, I guess we should really retreat and rest for the day. Do you have any place in mind where we can’t be disturbed?”

“Yes,” Ryan replied.

Although Ryan couldn’t imagine winning a battle at night against more than one hundred vampires, things might change soon. That was one of the reasons he wanted to retreat to where he left Gonzales

and his friends. It was in order to find out which skills he could obtain with that stupid number of coins he had.

“Finding a weapon more powerful than the pestilence crossbow in the dungeon shops is probably out of the question, and while even the most useful skills always start at level one, I am sure I can obtain something decent with this amount.”

When Ryan returned much sooner than they had anticipated, Gonzales and his friends couldn't but frown and think that, as expected, he would need their help to deal with the monsters. However, since he wasn't alone, many questions started to pop on their heads.

“You can relax,” Ryan said. “I didn't come to make you guys fight earlier than I said. We are just here to rest for the day.”

“Is that so? That is a relief,” Gonzales said. “Although we made a lot of progress in two days, I can't say that we are ready to face even a single small pack of those creatures.”

Although Gonzales's friends didn't like the presence of too many people that seemed stronger and better armed than them, they relaxed when they saw Daniel and the others just chilling around. As one would expect, the goblins were no longer a real threat to those survivors, even though they were at level sixty.

In any case, Ryan opened the dungeon shop and checked the tomes section. As expected, his options increased greatly, and just like he had imagined, he had to spend ten million coins to learn how to create the earth, water, fire, and wind with his mana alone.

“I can even buy tomes to summon goblins and Sahuagins now, huh'! Not that they would have any real use to me. In any case, at least to summon them, I only need eight hundred points of mana.”

Although with all his firing power, Ryan was confident that he could take down a vampire in a one-on-one fight, he wouldn't be able to fight in such a situation. So, he looked for tomes that would help him with his archery skills. Strangely enough, Ryan only found a single skill that fit his criteria. ρ??(???)???

Enhanced Concentration

Effect: It passively increases your dexterity by ten points per level.

Price: 10.000.000

“The heck is with this price? Why a passive skill like this cost the same amount as the skills that will teach me how to create things using only mana?”

After thinking for a while, Ryan understood why it was like that. First of all, the skill was a passive one. He wouldn't need to use mana to use it, and as long as he fights relying on dexterity, the skill will level up by itself. While the cost was insane, it would feel like Ryan had brought status with coins after a while. That was a convenient 'power' that only those who had a lot of coins had.

In the end, Ryan bought the skill for several reasons. Because of its potential, because he would need all the extra firepower he can get to defeat the vampires, and because more than ever, Ryan realized that he needed even more power. If it weren't for Daniel and the others, the chances of him preventing the third dungeon break of that place would be close to none.

Accepting that was annoying as hell for Ryan, but he wasn't a hypocrite to say that it wasn't the case. Besides, things got so easy when other people were fighting alongside him, and at the same time, Ryan felt comfortable and annoyed. He didn't want that kind of comfort. For someone like him who wanted to prove to himself that he could live in this world with his strength alone, such a feeling wasn't only worse of a few things.

“What else can I get here'!” Ryan rubbed his chin.

In the end, Ryan discovered that he had to spend five million coins to learn Telepathy. Unfortunately, he was only interested in mind reading, but he didn't find that skill being sold. It was probably more expensive, or maybe it was a skill exclusive to a class.

Ryan didn't even waste his time looking for similar things like Teleportation and Precognition. The price of those would probably make his eyes jump from the sockets. Although that wasn't a skill that would be useful to a long-ranged fighter, Ryan decided to learn a certain skill since he didn't find the long-range version of the same.

Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Stamina Drain.

Effect: When attacking a target, you can restore your stamina.

Cost: 10 mana per hit and drains one point of mana per level from your foes. It only works with melee attacks.

You obtained 01 status point.

“This is another skill that has a lot of potential, but I will need to train it as much as possible outside troublesome fights. While I can’t kill something by decreasing its stamina, I can certainly make my foes become less troublesome by doing. Especially those who focus on physical attacks.”

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Although Ryan looking for the version that drains mana and health of the same skill, he didn’t find it. Most likely, even though they had similar effects, their prices were different, given that mana and health were more important than stamina.

“Have you finished your business in the dungeon shop?” Tristan suddenly appeared and then asked.

“Yeah,” Ryan replied.

“Since that is the case, can you give me a few hints as to how I should make myself stronger?” Tristan asked. “I don’t think I can clear dungeon as fast as you, but even so, as long as I can have half of your current strength, it will be enough for me.”

“You are asking the wrong person. I am not a mage,” Ryan said. “I can only say the obvious. Raise your mana, intelligence and recover as much as possible. To increase your survivability, try to obtain Mana Shield.”

"I already have that skill, and I am already focusing on those statuses," Tristan said.

"See? I told you that I could only give you some obvious tips." Ryan shrugged. "In any case, I found some dungeons in which you can find some variations of mage classes. If you form a group to clean those places, you might find some clues as to how to make yourself stronger."

"All right, I will do that," Tristan nodded cheerfully.

Although Ryan wanted to make his new skills level up as possible before he could start a training session, Luke also approached him, looking for advice. Ryan sighed since even though that wasn't annoying per se, it was troublesome.

"You shouldn't ask me how to be stronger while punching and kicking monsters," Ryan said. "You probably will never see me doing that."

"It is fine. Any tip will be welcome," Luke said. "I just need to obtain a little more strength because my big sister is too awesome, and I feel like I am dragging her down."

"... Do you have any charged attacks?" Ryan asked after sighing. "One that only consumes stamina?"

"I do," Luke nodded. "Is one of the most basic melee skills. The problem is, I can't move while I use that skill."

"Do you have the Trickster class?" Ryan asked.

"Yeah, what about it?" Luke frowned.

"Try to combine those that skill and Flash, and you will probably find a way to counter the weakness of both," Ryan said. "You will have to stop moving, but when the enemy approaches, you will be able to move to his back and cause critical damage. If you are strong enough, you might kill several monsters like that. So, the sage class might help you as well." ρ??∪??(?)???

“Oh! That is true! How come I never thought of that?” Luke asked with an excited smile.

“Probably because you are dumb,” Ryan said.

Luke ignored Ryan’s final comment and left the area to test that combination. Before he could forget it, Ryan decided to test that skill Luke had mentioned. When Ryan prepared a punch and tried to focus all his strength in a single-arm, he felt his stamina being drained, but he didn’t receive any notification since he didn’t perform the skill, but when he punched the air and caused a small shockwave...

Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Concentrated Strike.

Effect: Increases the power of your next melee attack in one point of strength per second.

Cost: Cost: 01 Stamina per second

You obtained 01 status point.

“I can’t imagine why you learned that,” Lilian asked. “Anyway, you certainly a popular with kids, and you are pretty nice to them.”

“... There is a hobgoblin inside this dungeon. Why don’t you go stare at its abs or something?” Ryan asked.

“Perhaps I will,” Lilian smiled from ear to ear.

Ryan sighed. As expected, the lone wolf life suited him better. Still, while he moved away from the camp to train a little bit, he couldn’t help but ponder about Lilian’s comments. She was right. Ryan was pretty nice to those who were younger than him, but only because once he planned to be a teacher. From his perspective, having that kind of patience and the will to help the younger generations wasn’t something he needed any longer.

At the same time, while the idea of being someone others could rely on or look up to weren't so bad, Ryan could shake off from his head if that admiration and respect were true or the others were just looking at him and seeing a useful tool to make them reach their own goals.

“Those doubts are annoying, so in the end, it is better that I keep fighting alone.”

Ryan spent the rest of the day training his archery skill, and, in the end, he even managed to learn something useful. As long as he tries to simulate his training close to a fight, his skills could level up much faster than just by using them randomly. For example, if Ryan tried to hit something in the distance at the limits of his range, his archery skills could progress a lot more than if he just tried to fire the bolts randomly at the sky or something.

Another thing that Ryan confirmed was the fact that vampires disliked sunlight more than anything. As soon as night fell, the bosses led their minion toward the dungeon where Ryan and others were camping. However, just as Ryan predicted they didn't enter the dungeon, they didn't even try to damage the place.

“Ryan was right,” Daniel said. “Now the bosses want to take the fight to us.”

“We can choose the time in which we can fight, but that doesn't mean we will have all the advantage when we fight the bosses,” Angela said. “They will be inside the dungeon if we attack during the day. Considering everything, they will wait for us at the end of the dungeon, and at such a place, we won't be able to fight.”

“I will force them to come out during the day,” Ryan declared. “They don't suffer damage due to the sunlight; their status just decreases to some extent. Regardless, I can force them to fight where I want.”

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After sunrise, Ryan left the dungeon and frowned when Gonzales and his friends accompanied him with a resolute look in their eyes. If he didn't know any better, he would say that they wanted to participate in the final battle against the vampires.

“What?” Ryan asked.

“We are not strong enough, but we would like to fight alongside you,” Gonzales said. “In the future, we would feel ashamed if we pass to the next generations that some people from other countries recovered our lands and we only watched them from the sidelines.”

That was all very nice and good, but Ryan didn't want to give the vampires a single chance to use Vampirism. It was too much of a risk... Although they could become a bit stronger while fighting the Chupacabras, the difference in power wasn't small to the point where they could cover in just a few hours of hunting.

“Let them come with us, Ryan,” Daniel said. “They are all ranged-fighters, right? As long as Holland, Luke, Lilian, and I do our job correctly, nothing will happen to them.”

“You talk already declaring if something happens to them, it will be your fault by default,” Angela frowned. “That being said, I agree with you. The true inhabitants of some lands have to fight for their countries. Besides, the more we fight, the more loot we will get. We can increase their power with the same loot.”

“To be honest, I want their help,” Tristan declared. “After the fight yesterday, I lost all my confidence in my skills. Besides, there is strength in numbers. I am sure their numbers will be more useful than you think, Ryan.”

Ryan sighed. If he were alone, he could say no instantly, and the question would be over, but since that wasn't the case, he had to listen to that kind of nonsense. Although he wanted to say that it was nonsense, he couldn't exactly disagree with any of those arguments.

“Well, if you guys want to risk your neck that much, who am I to say no?” Ryan asked. “Do as you see fit.”

Although Ryan thought those guys wanted to challenge the monsters with their guts alone, they properly made some preparations before leaving. Each one of them had a backpack filled with mana potions. In the end, Ryan even lent his magic wand to Gonzales to make him increase his survivability and utility.

After the preparations had been done, they marched toward Monterrey, and as expected, they didn't find anything even when they entered the city. It was obvious that the Chupacabras were planning ambushes in several places. Given that they could disappear within the shadows, one could easily find where they could hide, but Ryan decided to do something better. He waited outside the city with everyone else until noon. At that time of the day, the number of places the monsters could hide decreased, and those spots became quite obvious.

"Let's see if they can be damaged inside those shadows..."

Ryan, who was flying in the sky using his shield as a platform, found several shadows within the city. Without wasting any more time, he fired the pestilence crossbow at those places. He didn't notice anything at first, but when Ryan insisted on attacking the same shadow over and over again, he saw the corpse of a dead Chupacabra suddenly appearing, and other poisoned monsters also appeared.

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"I guess their mentality and willpower increase while they stay in that form."

Ryan bombarded several of those places with his bolts, but instead of killing all the monsters hidden, Ryan focused on just damaging them to some extent. Upon noticing that Ryan wouldn't fall for such an obvious trap, the monsters left their hideouts and moved toward him. When that happened, Ryan joined the others who had stayed behind.

"They are coming," Ryan said.

Little by little, a massive cloud of dust began to appear in Monterrey. The vampires noticed that ambushes wouldn't work on Ryan, so they decided to tire Ryan and the others with the monsters that they still had under their control.

When the monsters finally appeared, the backline began to fire their magic projectiles. At the same time, Ryan used Ice Storm to slow down the monsters even more. Just like the previous day, the monsters suffered many losses. Before they finally could attack Daniel and the others. However, unlike yesterday, they used the Dark Sphere to make the frontline become as slow as possible.

"I knew that things wouldn't end that easily..."

Even Lilian and Luke, who were quite quick on their feet, got hit several times and, in the end, just like Daniel and Holland, they assumed defensive positions to prevent letting the monsters bit them. Suddenly, Ryan had an idea... what will happen if he kills the monsters that used Dark Spheres? In the blink of an eye, Ryan stopped attacking the monsters on the sides and attacked those who were coming from the front, and they died. Daniel and the others recovered their mobility more and more.

“Dumbasses! Try to dodge at least some of the attacks!” Ryan shouted.

“We are trying!” Daniel protested.

The monsters finally were too close to use Dark Sphere, and those who were behind couldn't risk hitting their friends, so the long-ranged attacks turn was over. Despite that, Daniel and the frontline were being pushed back for some reason. Their wounds on their bodies were increasing, and whenever their blood was spilled over a Chupacabra, the monsters healed.

“The heck is going on?”

Ryan eventually noticed what was going on... the situation was difficult because he wasn't killing the Chupacabras as fast as possible. Even though they were so close and there was nothing blocking his field of vision, he wasn't as fast as he had been on the previous day. At best, he was killing seven of them per second and noticed why that was happening. It decreased to five... his doubts were preventing him from showing his true potential.

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While Ryan was trying to overcome his lack of focus with pure sheer will, Gonzales and his friends stepped forward. As if they had trained to do that or something, they began to fire Fireballs toward the sky in an arc. Those projectiles hit each other, but instead of exploding, they only fused to create an even bigger Fireball. Although the projectile was beyond their control, they kept increasing the attack's size by firing their own spells.

Eventually, a thirty-meter large fireball fell on the monster's army and caused a massive explosion that decimated dozens of monsters and heavily wounded many others.

“Ouch! Ouch! It is hot!” Daniel shouted in pain. “Damn, at least warn us next time you do this.”

“Don’t complain. They saved our asses,” Holland said after finally finding some room to breathe. “Anyway, it looks like Ryan isn’t on his top form today.”

Although that hadn’t been an insult, Ryan bit his lips in annoyance until it started to bleed. He knew why his doubts were bothering him, but Ryan refused to admit that it was true... To think that his mind could affect so much his skill was annoying beyond reason.

Regardless, Gonzales and his friends managed to solve the situation once, but Ryan didn’t feel like causing problems anymore, even if they were involuntary. So, he stopped aiming with his crossbow and just fired at the places where monsters were clustered. At the same time, he used Power of Money to eliminate the other creatures that were trying to attack them from the sidelines. Although the cost was quite high, Ryan managed not only to recover his hunting speed but also to increase it even further.

Daniel and the others frowned when the monsters began to explode for no apparent reason, but eventually, they understood that Ryan was the one causing that. The fight got incredibly easier after that, to the point where Daniel and Holland started to focus on the offense as well. Meanwhile, Lilian and Luke didn’t let the blood rush to their head since the bosses could appear at any moment, but in the end, they never came...

“Hell yeah! We won again!” Tristan jumped and raised his arms to the sky again... it looked like he liked to do that after every other fight.

While Natalia was frowning, looking at her little brother, Daniel and Holland were greeting Gonzales and his friends and saying thanks for the help in the middle of the fight. Meanwhile, Luke and Lilian were organizing the loot.

“Shit... shit.” ρ??∪??(?)???

In the end, Ryan calmed down pretty fast after just cursing a few times. He couldn’t just let the same things happen over and over again, after all. Thinking that his actions were wrong and he couldn’t fight alone already was something that he already experienced before.

“It is okay. Those damn thoughts will disappear once I eliminate those freaks inside the dungeon... at least for a while.”

That was a bit tiring, but it looked like Ryan had to constantly prove to himself that he could do what he wanted and that he was more than capable enough to survive even though fucking monsters are spawning every second.

“It looks like things worked out in the end,” Daniel said. “By the way, are you fine?”

“It wasn’t me who had a hard time during the whole fight and had to be saved by a bunch of strangers,” Ryan replied. “Rest while you can because I want to challenge the bosses this afternoon. It is too risky to do it tomorrow since they might use all kinds of tricks to buy time. We need to decrease their numbers today, and if it isn’t possible to clear the dungeon, at least we will increase our chances today.”

“I totally agree,” Daniel said. “Anyway, it shouldn’t be too hard to do that considering that we defeated fifty thousand of those monsters in two days. Things might be different if the bosses were like Dracula, but fortunately, that isn’t the case.”

Daniel really had to jinx everyone with those words... Ryan didn’t want to think about it since his head was already full of problems, but the possibility of a creature like Dracula being the vampires’ leader was high. Still, Ryan didn’t feel like using the purple crystal to check that. The only thing he wanted to think of was to why he opened a dungeon at such a place instead of Transylvania.

“I think we are ready to go,” Angela declared. “Just to be safe, we should send an escort team to make sure that no other Chupacabra is lurking around. Come to think of it. Maybe the vampires are lurking around waiting for us to approach. It wouldn’t be weird if they can do the same things those monsters could and even better.”

“I can do that,” Ryan declared. “I have the skills necessary for that role. “However, even I go alone, I don’t think they will show up or attack if they are planning an ambush. If your worries are correct, they will only do it when their chances of exterminating us are absolute. That being said, I don’t think they are preparing a trap outside the dungeon.”

“What makes you think that?” Angela asked.

“All the experience I obtained so far while fighting those freaks,” Ryan said. “I don’t know why, but even while they sacrifice their minions, they don’t do anything without reason. If the bosses didn’t attack us during the day until now, they didn’t do it for a reason. Besides, if they were that smart, they would have to set up an ambush while we fought the army of monster.”

All the bosses Ryan faced until now thought about their self-preservation first and foremost. The sapient ones didn’t even bother to hide their intentions. Considering everything Ryan saw, if there were a chance for a boss to win a fight alongside its minions, that boss would fight alongside its minions. If there were no chances of victory, the bosses wouldn’t fight, and they would sacrifice their minions. Even though those minions could hunt other monsters, get stronger, and by proxy make the dungeon and the other monsters spawned by the dungeon stronger.

In other words, they had the confidence that even without their minions, they could do that. Hence, their survival was their top priority, even though they were nearly immortal thanks to the dungeons’ blessing.

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The Chupacabras’ dungeon appeared right in the center of a certain park in Monterrey. As if it had been made to completely stop any sunlight from entering inside of it, Ryan could see that the underground cave was pretty deep. While that was good because he will have the chance to control his bolt with more ease, at the same time, he probably won’t be able to see much. Even with his Nocturnal Eyes. That skill helped him see better at night. It didn’t help him see better places completely devoid of light.

“How are we going to proceed from here?” Natalia asked.

“I am going to use a magic item and fire a Thunder Arrow,” Ryan explained. “The projectile won’t be as fast as my ordinary attacks, and with the electricity, I will be able to see the layout of the dungeon. Once I memorize the path, I will attack with everything I have.”

“You sure have some interesting skills,” Natalia said.

“Stay on guard, my first attack won’t cause much damage, but there is a chance that the vampires will realize what I am planning and will attack first,” Ryan said. “If that happens, prepare yourselves.”

Tristan and Luke gulped when they heard that, for a change, Ryan was serious, and since they were the two youngest of the group, they weren't good at that kind of serious atmosphere. While the others just checked their equipment and waited for Ryan to start his job.

After taking some deep breaths to calm down and raise his level of focus, Ryan equipped his magic wand and then fired a Thunder Arrow. In the blink of an eye, the projectile disappeared into the underground dungeon. In the end, Ryan quickly found some problems. He managed to control his Thunder Arrow perfectly since there weren't many intersections and the path toward the end of the dungeon was pretty straightforward. However, whenever he found a part of the dungeon where the path split, he saw one vampire resting in the corner of those places. They didn't even bother to pay attention to the magic projectile.

After flying for a few seconds, Ryan found the last part of the dungeon, and in there, he saw only thirty or so vampires resting. All the others were resting along the way... Ryan wouldn't be able to damage all of them.

"Shit... it looks like things will be very troublesome," Ryan clicked his tongue in annoyance.

After explaining what he saw, Ryan also told them what he was planning to do. Although he didn't give them many details, everyone understood that Ryan would only be able to damage and perhaps kill thirty or so vampires with his preemptive strike. That was only one-fourth of the total number he saw before.

ρ??∪??(?)???

"This seems bad," Daniel nodded. "If you truly wanted to get rid of even more than thirty, I can imagine how much you respect their strength."

"Unlike the dark spheres, the vampires can use Gravity at their will, so they don't have to hit us to make us lose our mobility," Ryan said. "While those who have the Trickster class can keep some mobility even in that situation, it isn't good enough."

"What if we use skills that have crowd control effects?" Luke asked. "That should keep them in check while you finish them with your arrows, right?"

“I don’t think that will work,” Ryan shook his head. “While most of their attributes aren’t worth noticing, their mentality, willpower, and endurance are pretty high. Not to mention, they have a lot of health, mana, and stamina. So, they can fight for long periods of time. Even if I focus on attacking a single vampire non-stop, I am not sure for how long I will have to keep causing damage. There is also the fact that they can use Vampirism, and if any of us gets caught, the fight might last even longer.”

This time, Ryan didn’t manage to find a way for him to solve the situation. Maybe he was worrying too much since the vampires obviously didn’t want to find it during the day, but even so, he didn’t want to take any chances when he wasn’t fighting alone. Why was he worried about the life of others? Because his head is already full of problems, if someone dies in that fight, that will bother him for quite a while.

“It looks like only teamwork can solve this situation,” Daniel declared. “Let’s just focus on fighting together, and things will work out in the end. Even if some of us get caught by the vampires, as long as we are close to each other, we can prevent the worst.”

Ryan sighed when he heard that. It was the most nonsensical plan that he had heard in his life. Let’s just stay together and fight... there were zero strategies. Still, if they fight together close at the dungeon’s entrance and grab the monsters’ attention...

“Yeah, let’s follow Daniel’s idea,” Ryan said. “To make things proceed as well as possible, the front line will stay in front of the entrance while Gonzales and his friends will stay on the right of the entrance, and Angela, Natalia, and Tristan will attack from the left side.”

“What about you?” Natalia asked while frowning. “No, rather than that, why are you following such a plan that has zero tactical planning?”

“I added some more points to his brilliant plan, didn’t I?” Ryan asked. “In the end, we can’t let the vampires move too far away from the entrance of the dungeon since they can fly. With that much mobility, they can easily move around and attack several of us from behind since they outnumber us in four to one. Anyway, the frontline will focus solely on drawing the zombies’ attention, and the other two groups will attack the monsters while making sure that they won’t get away from the dungeon.”

Although Ryan’s plan was simple and looked quite good, Daniel and the others couldn’t help but frown since every one of his ideas had him as the core. That only showed how much he trusted on others...

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In the end, Ryan didn't change his plan all that much, but Angela and Natalia made him realize that it was a bit too much to hope that four people could slow down dozens of flying vampires.

So, he created around the dungeon entrance a thing that he called the forest of the killer trees. Basically, he used Earth Manipulation and Earth Transformation to block the dungeon's exit with several metal poles full of spikes. If the zombies try to pass by them, the spikes will wound and slow them down. If the slowdown in order not to get hurt, the long-range fighters will use that extra time to keep attacking.

"Now, this is more like it," Natalia said. "You can start now."

Ryan sighed since he had to waste two hours to create those barricades, and now, they only had two hours before sunset. Regardless... in order to prevent more waste of time, Ryan started to charge his Power Shot.

Considering that the monsters on the last part of the dungeon were spread, the chances of Ryan killing all of them at the same time was quite slim, even more so since he had to avoid damaging the purple crystal. So, in the end, Ryan only charged the attack for twenty6 seconds and then fired.

After a few seconds, the ground trembled, and Ryan took a deep breath since he confirmed that he didn't damage the purple crystal. Regardless, he still managed to kill ten vampires and heavily wound fifteen others.

You obtained 33.000 coins.

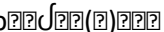
You obtained 33.000 coins.

You obtained 33.000 coins.

...

For a moment, Ryan hoped while he was charging another Power Shot that the vampires closest to the entrances would show up first, but even though they could reach the entrance after just a few seconds, they didn't show up alone. All the vampires inside the dungeon left that hole of theirs at the same time. Although that helped Ryan to charge his attack for a few precious seconds, it wasn't enough.

The monsters tried to fly between the metal poles that Ryan had created, but they still got cut by the spikes. Although he made the tips using silver, the wounds didn't seem different than ordinary ones. The only difference that Ryan noticed was that the monsters were slower than he could remember, and they looked really annoyed.

"As expected, it looks like sunlight is their only weakness. In any case, they sure came outside pretty fast... I guess they understood that I could snipe them even while they stay hidden inside the dungeon. This is truly their last stand." 

"Now!" Daniel shouted.

After giving the order, Daniel and the other members of the frontline attacked the monsters who tried to fly straight to Ryan. At the same time, the long-range fighters used their attacks to slow down and damage as much as possible the vampire that tried to escape to the sky and to the sides.

Those creatures noticed that they couldn't focus only on Ryan and ignore the others. However, even though they tried, the vampires failed at approaching their targets due to the intensity of the barrage of attacks. It was only natural that even while weakened, the vampires wouldn't hold back forever, but at the moment, the only thing they could do was to endure the attacks.

"I have to keep charging the attack... until the very last moment."

Little by little, the metal poles Ryan had created were being destroyed, at the same time, Daniel and the other frontline members were being pushed back by the vampires. Since the very beginning, they focused solely on defense, but as expected, they couldn't protect their vitals effectively when their bodies suddenly became ten or twenty times heavier. Ryan could see several damage marks on Daniel and Holland's armor. Meanwhile, Luke and Lilian were starting to bleed from several places. It looked like the vampires' claws were much sharper than he predicted.

"Shit... it is now or never." Ryan clenched his teeth.

Ryan fired his bolt, and a massive explosion happened right at the entrance of the dungeon where most of the monsters were clustered. His attack caused a shockwave that knocked down foes and allies alike. Still, as expected, his allies suffered far less damage since the body of the vampires served as a barrier to prevent the energy from dispersing even further.

You obtained 33.000 coins.

You obtained 33.000 coins.

You obtained 33.000 coins.

...

Ryan quickly received forty of those messages... in the end, his two attacks not even killed half of the monsters. Hopefully, the damage had spread to some extent, but Ryan decided not to count on that. It was better to just focus on attacking.

When the dust died down, Ryan saw the vampires getting up and his allies doing the same but much slower. As expected, the shockwave damaged them quite a bit. Even though the long-range fighters were at a certain distance, they were the ones who suffered the most. Ryan used his crossbow, and after a few seconds, he finally killed another vampire... As expected, relying on his crossbow alone was too risky. The monsters were already ready for the next charge.

“It can’t be helped, huh...” Ryan sighed.

Ryan sighed and then started to use Power of Money alongside his crossbow. However, instead of focusing on slaying vampires, he made sure to attack until they fell down. He wasn’t going to obtain a single coin from then, so there was no need to focus on killing them for the time being.

As expected, Daniel and the others who came from Indianapolis to help Ryan were the first ones to recover and resume the fight. The vampires’ gravity was no longer in effect, so they rushed to the offensive without holding back. The number of monsters decreased at a fast pace now that Ryan decided not to worry about coins. However, at the last moment, the vampires planned a suicide attack.

The last ten monsters working together flew in the same direction. The survivors' attack killed five of those, but the last five captured Daniel in the end.

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"That asshole'!" Ryan clicked his tongue in annoyance while the vampires were flying upward.

To make matters worse, the vampires used Daniel as a shield to prevent Ryan from attacking them. Although they had a better angle of attack, the others didn't try to attack the vampires. They didn't want to risk hitting Daniel.

"Do it, Ryan!" Daniel shouted while he was trying to free himself from the vampires. "I can take it!"

"You can't, dumbass..." Ryan said and then sighed.

Even though Daniel was wearing full-plate armor, and that was what was preventing him from being bitten all over by the vampires, such a thing won't prevent Ryan from exploding him if he charges his Power Shot for a few seconds. Regardless, to think Ryan would be forced to use his head in order to save Daniel'! fate certainly is a bitch.

Ryan sighed and took out his Paralyzing Spear. At the same time, he looked at Natalia and moved his hands as if he was saying, "give me that." Natalia understood the message and threw the Sagittarians' bow. While nocking the spear, Ryan decided to say his farewells to Daniel.

"Too bad, but I don't have any intention of racking my brain to save someone like you," Ryan said. "You will have to be sacrificed for the greater good. Consider this your payment for letting yourself to get caught by the enemy."

"! Hahaha, you certainly can crack jokes at the most unexpected moments, Ryan," Daniel showed a nervous smile.

"Yeah'! I am a joker," Ryan said and then began to charge his Power Shot.

While weakened by sunlight and covered in bruises, the vampires couldn't move that fast while carrying Daniel. So, Ryan didn't even bother moving. He just nonchalantly charged his attack for quite a while. Knowing what Ryan could do, the vampire started to become apprehensive.

"Hey, Ryan' ; you can't be serious' ;" Tristan said.

When the air around Ryan began to change due to the amount of energy concentrated, everyone noticed that Ryan was serious. They knew that he was a bit insane, but not that much. Even though Daniel, Mia, and him had a story, Ryan never showed any sign that he wanted to kill them at some point.

However, in the end, the vampires decided to bet that Ryan didn't have the guts to sacrifice his ally in order to attain it completely. That pissed Ryan so much that he decided to kill those fuckers without leaving a single molecule behind' ; they will be obliterated. ρ??∫??(?)???

Ryan fired, and at that very moment, the vampires finally concluded that he would sacrifice everything to obtain complete victory. Those monsters kicked Daniel toward the Paralyzing Spear in order to make him be the center of the impact at the same time, they flew toward all directions to escape the explosion, but that had been a mistake. Daniel indeed got hit by something, but only by the pressure of the air when the projectile passed by him. In the end, Ryan used Force and Telekinesis to make his attack pass by him. However, at that moment, time suddenly stopped moving, and Ryan clearly saw his spear moving one centimeter after the other.

"This is' ;"

Ryan had experienced something like that before. Orgar had done something to slow down time when they escaped from Lilith's word. At first, Ryan thought he had used some crazy buff to increase their speed, but that wasn't the case' ; it was time magic. While that piece of information was important, the real important piece of information was that Alissa was nearby and used that spell. Maybe other dragons could use such a technique, but they didn't have any reason to save Daniel, so it made sense that Alissa was nearby.

"I am glad that you haven't fallen so low despite everything' ;"

Ryan clicked his tongue when he heard Alissa's voice. Still, at the very least, she wasn't treating Ryan like an idiot' ; Regardless, time returned to move at its right speed, and in the blink of an eye, the spear

hit the vampires a few meters behind Daniel. The explosion happened, and that caused another shockwave that sent Daniel flying to the distance. Ryan just watched him pass by him, he wasn't going to die from the fall anyway, and in the worst-case scenario, he will only break a few limbs. He deserved at least that much pain for making Ryan experience that stupidly annoying situation.

In the end, the explosion decimated the vampires and also destroyed the tip of the Paralyzing Spear. However, Ryan could repair it, so it was fine. In the end, everyone sighed in relief when they saw that Daniel wasn't caught in the explosion. Although he broke an arm in the fall, that was just a minor nuisance.

"You scared me for a second, Ryan," Daniel said. "You should have blinked or something or warn me."

"You really are stupid' ¦," Ryan sighed. "Why would I do that? Since I didn't do it, I enjoyed watching you almost shitting your pants."

" ¦ You are really nasty," Daniel sighed.

"This is nothing. If one day I decide to kill you, I won't do it with a bow. It will be with my hands," Ryan said and then went to see the loot.

Daniel gulped since he almost laughed but didn't see a hint of a joke in Ryan's eyes. Maybe he was serious, or maybe that was just another way of him to say fuck off' ¦ it was impossible to know."

"You really like to test your luck," Holland said and then patted Daniel's back. "Sorry about that. I was so close to you, but I didn't react on time to prevent you from being captured."

"It is okay. None of us could have predicted that the vampires would do something like that," Daniel smiled. "Let's just work hard in order not to let something like that caught us off-guard again."

Despite saying that Daniel was sweating cold with a smile on his face because he recalled Ryan's eyes when he fired. He saw a lot of hatred there' ¦ although his attitude improved a little bit, his hate didn't grow weaker. For the first time, Daniel considered that he should change his attitude as well. His overly friend attitude had a single purpose, to restore their friendship, but it looked like that was impossible.

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Although the number of coins obtained had been pretty low since Ryan used Power of Money, the bosses dropped a lot of items. However, Ryan only got a pair of gloves because those were the only items he was interested in. As for tomes and the other loot the others thought he deserved, he sold them for a reasonable price.

Gloves of Master Hunter

Effect: Increases your attack speed when using crossbow and bows by ten percent.

Dexterity + 20

Durability: 50/50

“Not bad, I guess... the bonus in status alone already is worth using it, and if I manage to fire while completely focused, my power will reach a whole new level.”

Some people got wounded in the fight, mostly because of Ryan’s Power Shot, so they waited for a while for everyone to recover before entering the dungeon. It was impossible to tell if Ryan and the others had exterminated all vampires. Some of them still might be hiding inside the dungeon, so all caution was necessary.

“Fighting with these numbers inside the dungeon will be tough,” Ryan declared. “But we can’t leave anyone behind either. So, Angela and me are going to clean the path and fight, if necessary, with our Telekinesis.”

It seemed like a bad idea to make two long-ranged fighters take the lead in a dark place, but since no one had a better idea as to how to be careful, they went along with that plan. However, much to their surprise and satisfaction, they didn’t find a single boss alive inside the dungeon. They only fought here and there because the Chupacabras were still spawning.

Congratulations! You have cleared the dungeon and obtained its treasure! As a reward for your achievement, you can obtain one of the three following classes: Lord, Weapons Master, and Necromancer.

Please be aware that clearing this dungeon again won't give you the chance to unlock the other remaining classes. If you want to obtain them, you will have to search for those in other dungeons.

"As expected, the classes we can obtain here truly are from the third tier." Ryan nodded in satisfaction.

It has been a long while since Ryan felt so conflicted about his options. He had no idea what the Lord class could do, but the Weapons Master and Necromancer class truly were appearing. Considering status alone, the obvious choice would be to become a Weapons Master, but considering utility, Necromancer was the way to go. If his goal were to obtain more coins in order to obtain other skills, Ryan would have picked the Necromancer class, but in the end, he chose Weapons Master because he needed to increase his raw power much, much more. That happened many times, but that only made Ryan notice that absolute power was necessary to achieve his goals. Once he recalled that, he made his decision.

Congratulations! You have become a Level one Weapons Master!

You obtained the following skills: Mastery, Observation, and Potential.

Your dexterity and stamina will increase by six points, your health, mana, control, and speed will increase by three points whenever you level up your class.

Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Mastery.

Effect: It increases passively the growth speed of your skills that are related to weapons by one percent per level

You obtained 01 status point.

Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Observation.

Effect: It grants you the power also to level up your weapon-related skills when seeing others fighting.

You obtained 01 status point. $\rho_{\text{Weapon}} \sqrt{\text{Weapon}} \text{Weapon}$

Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Potential.

Effect: It passively increases all your attributes by one point per level

You obtained 01 status point.

“Those are... some interesting skills.”

While frowning, Ryan studied that class for a while longer. Although all of them would only truly shine in the long run, in the end, Ryan was satisfied with what he got. While Observation wouldn't come in handy often, the other two would help Ryan a lot since he will be able to decrease his weakness to a certain extent. However, Ryan's surprise didn't end there.

Congratulations! You have reached the rank of the 300 strongest humans! Keep clearing dungeons and defeating monsters to raise your rank, and you might receive some nice rewards!

Current Rank: 298th

You obtained: Centaurs' Blood.

“It has been a while... since I never dropped those. I never expected to find monster's blood that easily, but damn... to think that not even dragons drop this is kind of harsh.”

“Well, Ryan, is that...” Tristan hesitated to ask.

Centaur's Blood.

It grants you the following skills: Improved Speed, Heroic Archery, Heroic Spearmanship.

Ryan ignored Tristan and used Appraisal on the bottle filled with blood, but he couldn't help but frown in the end. He understood what Improved Speed could do just by reading. However, the other skills were weird... some skills had upgraded versions like Concentration, Improved Concentration, and Enhanced Concentration. Still, Ryan didn't expect that from skills related to the direct use of weapons.

Once everyone discovered that Ryan obtained the monster's blood that could alter his body, they couldn't help but frown. Apparently, many survivors hesitated in drinking that, even if getting such material was such great luck.

"Hey, Ryan," Natalia said, looking visibly worried. "Daniel already told us that you used something like that before... you certainly aren't thinking of changing your body even further, right?"

"Why are you worried? Do you like the current me or something?" Ryan laughed.

"I am serious here..." Natalia said.

"Well, Daniel talks too much," Ryan said. "In any case, for your information, I already did this three times, and nothing happened. Do you see anything strange with me?"

"Aside from the fact that you are insane and acts like an edgy kid who wants to stay alone?" Natalia asked. "No... I don't think so."

Ryan furrowed his eyebrows since it looked like everyone had the same opinion of him. Still, it doesn't matter what others think of him. Ryan's life was his alone, and no one could stop him from doing what he wanted or obtaining more power. If something happens after drinking the blood of so many monsters, he will deal with the consequences when the time comes.

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Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Improved Speed.

Effect: It passively increases your speed by five points per level.

You obtained 01 status point.

Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Heroic Archery.

Effect: Increases damage when using bows and crossbows by three percent per level.

You obtained 01 status point.

Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Heroic Spearmanship.

Effect: Increases damage when using spears and lances by three percent per level.

You obtained 01 status point.

Fortunately, all those skills were passive ones. Ryan liked those most because he didn't have to worry about activating or deactivating them during and after the fights. In any case, his guesses hit the mark. Those new skills were just a new tier of the skills he already had, and hopefully, they could stack with the older ones.

"Mission complete... now what I should do?" Ryan rubbed his chin thoughtfully.

With those classes, Gonzales and his friends will be able to guard not only this dungeon but probably two others. They had the numbers, after all. Although Ryan felt like clearing other dungeons, he stayed away from the base for two weeks, so maybe it was time to see if Mark had some useful intel. Ryan wasn't much worried about Arthur and Zoe since he used Search and confirmed their safety pretty much whenever possible.

“Maybe I should help Zoe clear those tier three dungeons. Not only will she become more important to the base, but she also will obtain more power to protect herself in case something happens.”

“Hey, Ryan,” Tristan said. “We finished here. What are you going to do now?”

“That is none of your business,” Ryan said.

“Come on, don’t be so harsh,” Tristan forced a smile. “I think the Colonel wants to talk to you in order to give you a status update of the situation in our country. So, we should head back home together.”

Home... Ryan would never be able to think of that place as his home. As far as he was concerned, his home had been destroyed the week his parents died. Regardless, Tristan wasn’t stupid enough to lie to Ryan, so he decided to return to the base.

“You helped us a lot,” Gonzales said. “Thank to you. We took the first step to reclaim our country. I hope to someday to repay the favor.”

“I accept coins,” Ryan said. “You can repay the favor by giving me coins.”

“... Once we have some leeway with this new currency, I will make sure to do that,” Gonzales hesitated for a second after recalling how useful coins were in this new world.

While everyone was heading to the exit and saying their goodbyes to their new brothers and sisters in arms, Ryan checked the dungeon shop only to restock his supply of potions. After that, he began to fly around using Telekinesis. Ryan intended to use that skill alone to return to the base and perhaps learn Fly, but for some reason, he felt like things wouldn’t be that convenient.

“Five million coins, huh,” Tristan said with his eyes full of jealousy. “Someday, I will buy that tome.”

After doing some tests, Ryan confirmed that he was two times slower than when running. That was weird, given that the level of his speed and intelligence were basically the same. Regardless, Daniel and the others managed to catch up to him just by running, thanks to it.

“Who wants to make a bet about who will reach the base first?” Daniel smirked.

“Sounds good to me,” Holland nodded.

“So childish...” Angela sighed.

Although of they complained, everyone used Dash at the same time to increase their movement speeds. From Ryan’s perspective, they were all idiots, but at least they would work as good baits for dragons. That was why Ryan didn’t bother trying harder to increase his speed. Unfortunately, despite that, Ryan soon caught up to them.

“Hey, Ryan, that is not fair,” Luke protested. “You can’t use potions.”

“I am not participating in your bullshit... and who said that I used potions?” Ryan asked.

“I can fly using Telekinesis just by relying on the level of the skill and my recovery.”

“For some reason, that makes me even madder,” Luke frowned.

Since they used Dash and didn’t hold back, their stamina was empty. In the end, if they tried to out-speed Ryan, their stamina would decrease a lot. However, at the very least, they could move at his flying speed just fine. That was a bit annoying since, from Ryan’s perspective, they didn’t try as hard as him, but in the end, it made a lot of sense that they had that level of power.

Although his Telekinesis leveled up quite a bit that day and he could continue doing that, Ryan decided to stop after sunset to train his new skills. The number of monsters in the area was lacking thanks to the Chupacabras and Hector, so Ryan’s only thing was to destroy some rocks.

“You never stop training, huh,” Natalia asked. ρ??ϕ??(?)???

“I don’t train at least this much every day. Then you are an idiot,” Ryan said. “Maybe you don’t know, but we are no longer the dominant species of this planet, and the ones at the top of the food chain can eat you in a single bite.”

“... Why are you always so quick to pick a fight with others?” Natalia asked while trying to control her anger.

“Nah, I am just too sincere,” Ryan said. “I would feel bad if I lie or use sarcasm while talking with idiots, they would never know, after all.”

“I give up...” Natalia said and then sighed. “It is impossible to have a proper talk with this guy.”

“You are too impatient, Natalia,” Tristan said. “I think your social skills are as rusty as Ryan.”

“What did you say?” Natalia glared at her little brother.

Ryan sighed. In the end, his plans to use them as baits to lure some dragons failed, and now, he had to hear all that bull crap.

Class: Hunter Lv 58 (+ 03 UP / Elementalist Lv 53 (+ 03 UP)/ Monk Lv 16 (–)

Race: Night Demon /Reptilian/ Ice Fox (–)

Rank: 298th

Health: 559/718 (3, 19/s)

Mana: 1045/1500 (3, 19/s)

Stamina: 859/1066 (3,19/s)

Strength: 31 (+166) (+130)

Dexterity: 1121 (+888) (+57)

Speed: 85 (+415) (+48)

Intelligence: 81 (+412) (+3)

Endurance: 28 (+131) (+130)

Control: 06 (+439) (+10)

Mentality: 08 (+36) (+30)

Luck: 74 (+15)

Recovery: 700 (+894) (+330)

Willpower: 30 (+36)

Coins: 4.755.414

Status: 00

Skill List

Offensive Physical Skills: Power Shot Lv 72 (+ 05 UP), Stamina Drain Lv 01, Concentrated Strike Lv 01,

Passive Physical Skills: Discount Lv 16 (+ 10 UP), Sell Lv 01, Enhanced Concentration Lv 06, Mastery Lv 01, Observation Lv 01, Potential Lv 01, Improved Speed Lv 04, Heroic Archery Lv 04, Heroic Spearmanship Lv 04,

Spells: Ice Storm Lv 16 (+ 15 UP), Telekinesis Lv 36 (+ 05 UP), Strength Augmentation Lv 06, Deconstruction Lv 01, Electric Bullet Lv 01,

Support Skills:

Classes:

Combat: Sage Lv 49 (+ 04 UP), Archer Lv 49 (+ 04 UP), Combat Archer Lv 31 (+ 03 UP), Sorcerer Lv 18 (+ 03 UP), Sniper Lv 25 (+ 04 UP), Weapons Master Lv 03,

Non-Combatant:

Race: Centaur

Chapter 272

Ryan and the others returned to the base the next day, just after sunset. That made Mark frown since that wasn't the speed humans should have just by running, but it looked like everyone pushed themselves too far since aside from Ryan, Daniel and the others looked pretty beat down.

"We need to talk," Ryan said.

"Yes..." Mark said and then sighed, already imagining what Ryan wanted to hear.

Before starting the talk, they headed to the meeting room, and along the way, Ryan saw Zoe playing with Arthur and Mia. For some reason, Mia looked pretty tired. When Zoe saw Ryan she waved her hand and smiled. Since the kid was smart, she was acting just like usual around him.

After those two entered the meeting room, they sat down and stayed silent while Mark was preparing the room's monitor. However, even before everything could be ready, he started to talk.

"About the dragon that you probably faced on the South... I must apologize for not informing you about him," Mark said and then slightly lowered his head.

"Why did you stay silent about it?" Ryan asked. "It looks like you just assumed that I defeated him."

"I didn't expect that you two would meet," Mark explained. "His movements were rather hard to predict, so I expected that you two wouldn't fight. Considering how fearsome Alissa is, I wanted to avoid making you fight with him."

"That guy was leagues bellow Alissa," Ryan said. "In a sense, defeating him had been pretty easy since he was an idiot."

"Is that so... who could have thought that my worries were unfounded," Mark said. "Well, it doesn't change the fact that I made a mistake."

"Just move to the next topic, but don't make that mistake again," Ryan said. "How are things here with Zoe?"

"Nothing changed," Mark said. "Although some people frowned when she suddenly was able to walk and heal injuries suddenly, no one dared to do anything since she is a friend of yours and she is pretty close to Alissa and with the others like Daniel and Mia."

"Is that so... and about the situation of the country regarding dungeon?" Ryan asked.

"Five more dungeons appeared since the time you asked the number of dungeons," Mark said and then typed something on his computer, and then a map of the country with several red dots and blue dots appeared. "In the last month, since everyone worked hard, we managed to clear 110 dungeons. So, there 99 others that needed to be cleared."

"Ninety-nine, huh," Ryan muttered.

“Yes. However, we can say that the situation is pretty good with a few exceptions since none of those ninety-nine dungeons spawn creatures like dire wolves or Chupacabras. Speaking of which, what kind of bosses you faced while clearing that last dungeon?”

“Vampires,” Ryan replied.

“... Vampires...” Mark muttered and then shook his head to recover his composure. “Anyway, we also divided the dungeons in tiers based on the classes we can obtain, and for some reason, we only found a single dungeon in our territory in which we probably can a tier-three class.”

“You mentioned a few exceptions... is this one of the troublesome dungeons you mentioned?” Ryan asked.

“Indeed... we are almost one hundred percent sure that they are almost at the level of Chupacabras and dire wolves,” Mark needed. “We just need to confirm it by using Appraisal is one of them.”

“I guess I will go and check it,” Ryan said. “So, which type of monster are we talking about?”

“Giants,” Mark said. “They are very human-like. Although they are slow and not so bright, they compensate all that with their high endurance and brute strength. As for the bosses that the dungeon spawned... they were armored giants.”

That was weird. If that was the only dungeon in the American territory that could spawn tier-three monsters, where did Cerberus came from? Ryan couldn't help but frown while thinking about it.

“The red dots are the dungeon that hasn't been cleared. The blue dots represent the dungeons that have already been cleared,” Mark said while pointing at the monitor. “Now, I will change the monitor a bit. Some of the blue points turned green, see? Those are the dungeons that we have teams camped around and eliminating monsters day and night. At the moment, we have fifty of them under our control.”

“Good for you,” Ryan said.

“Hahaha, don’t talk as if I was planning this from the very beginning,” Mark shrugged. “Anyway, managing the dungeons and exchange the personal on a weekly basis is quite difficult, but I convinced Alissa to work with us to some extent. So, I believe in one month. We will be able to monitor around 150 dungeons all the time. In three months, we want to keep all dungeons under our control and, at the same time, exterminate all the monsters that had found their way to our planet.”

“That is pretty ambitious,” Ryan said.

“Those are our goals,” Mark said. “Now, what is your goal, Ryan? How can we help you achieve it?”

Ryan thought about that the whole trip. In the end, just clearing dungeons mindlessly wasn’t what he wanted. If demons, dire wolves, Chupacabras, and giants were the most troublesome creatures he could find in his current scope of the search, and he already defeated most of them, he just had to increase his range. Instead of obtaining new low-level classes, which would take a lot of his time to level up, it would be more convenient to find the advanced ones. The bonuses and the skills they offered were leagues above the others, after all.

“I will look for other tiers three dungeons,” Ryan said. “You probably won’t be able to help with that since you will use the satellite to confirm the security of our country, so I won’t demand the impossible.”

“You will keep searching for more power, huh,” Mark said while staring at Ryan’s eyes. “I guess that is just like you... Regardless, thank you for understanding my position. However, I can’t help you all that much anymore. I am still willing to buy the intel that you obtain.”

“I am sure,” Ryan said looking to the side.

Chapter 273

In the end, it looked like things were becoming quite stabilized in America. It was probably because of Alissa and her powers and due to the fact that she isn’t stupid like Hector. Regardless, after dealing with the giants, Ryan will have to expand his horizons. Although he could fly and cross the oceans, he decided to check the other extremes of America. Canada still was pretty much unexplored from his viewpoint, just like Central America and South America. Instead of looking for more advanced dungeons in other continents, it was still better to focus on the close opportunities.

“Some of my engineers managed to make this work. You should keep with you,” Mark said and then gave Ryan a pretty big cellphone. “It is a cellphone that works using the satellite that we are using. You can’t use it all the time, but in case of emergencies, it will be useful.”

“All right, though, I can’t promise that this won’t break too soon,” Ryan said. “Monsters are managing to wound me quite often as of late.”

“Well, what can I say?” Mark frowned. “You like to test your luck by always fighting alone.”

It looked like Mark wanted to give some advice for Ryan, but since he didn’t ask for one, Mark stayed quiet. Since their age was similar, Mark and John talked a lot, so he knew more or less about the things Ryan experienced just before the monsters arrived. So, he could understand, to a certain extent, Ryan’s actions. That being said, and despite everything, he couldn’t imagine Ryan finding anything worthwhile at the end of the path he was following.

“The giants” dungeon is located in Miami,” Mark said. “Although those creatures have to deal with dragons pretty often since they fight whenever possible, the megalodons can put up a good fight against them. So, I would advise being patient this time since they are that stronger and their numbers increased with the third dungeon break.”

Ryan would be lying if he says that he isn’t eager to leave the country and explore places he had never been before while he looks for tier three dungeons, but that excitement won’t force him to make some mistakes.

“If that is all, I should get going,” Ryan said. “I won’t hurry to clear the dungeon, but that doesn’t mean I can take my time to reach the place.”

In the end, Ryan didn’t stay on the base even for a single night. After being helped so many times by someone so much younger, Mark couldn’t help but sigh while watching Ryan leave. He was a fine example of youth’s audacity, but at the same time, he kind of represented humans’ potential. Mark was worried that such potential might be lost due to a part of Ryan’s life that was completely unrelated to all his fighting.

As soon as Ryan left the base, he went to grab the clothes he had hidden in a semi-destroyed store. After storing everything inside his ring, Ryan began to run to Southeast.

“I guess Mark wasn’t joking about his ambitions. I can’t see a single monster in the distance.”

In the end, Ryan only found some monsters when he approached Nashville. Since he left the reptilian alone, those idiots now were trying to expand their territory. Ryan easily killed those who blocked his path, but he didn’t do more than that. After all, Mark was bold enough to try clear and keep all the dungeons under his control. So, he had better get used to those creatures. Hopefully, he and the others won’t draw Echidna’s attention and fury, but in the end, it wasn’t like humans could choose their enemies.

Ryan arrived in Miami a few hours before sunset of the next day. Much to his surprise, things were much different than he had expected there. The giants did not expand their terrain all that much, and they even created some massive houses using earth magic and plants.

Giant Lv 110

Health: 5.000/5.000

Mana: 1.000/1.000

Stamina: 4.000 /4.000

Strength: 1100 (+350)

Dexterity: 200 (+50) $\rho_{\text{??}} \sqrt{\text{??}(\text{?})\text{??}}$

Speed: 100

Intelligence: 50

Endurance: 1500 (+350)

Control: 100

Mentality: 350 (+50)

Luck: 1000 (+50)

Recovery: 1500 (+450)

Willpower: 350 (+50)

Coins: —

Status:

Skill List

Offensive Physical Skills: Bash Lv 100

Passive Physical Skills: Iron Skin Lv 100, Bronze Skin Lv 100

Spells: Scream Lv 70

Support Skills: Fire Resistance Lv 90, Cold Resistance Lv 90, Pain Resistance Lv 90

The giants were, like Mark mentioned, pretty big humanoid creatures that didn't seem that smart. Their gender could even identify the ordinary ones that Ryan saw since they also were using some plants to hide their genitals. Regardless, the shortest of them was four meters tall, and the tallest was six. They

were pretty easy to identify since their hair tone, hairstyle, and even their faces were pretty much different from each other.

“What the hell am I thinking? I just need to know that they are my enemies and their weaknesses. Even if they look like humans, they are essentially invaders.”

That being said, hunting them won't be easy because those monsters created some fences around Miami as if they had remarked their backyard. Ryan wondered why they didn't leave their territories to look for food, but after walking around for a while, he found some lizards and fish being grilled in several bonfires. Those were the dragons and megalodons the giants had hunted to eat.

“They really don't feel like moving since they can just hunt the megalodons e dragons when they go at each other. This is really insane...” Ryan said, impressed.

It was pretty much obvious that all monsters were in a war against each other at that point in time, but Ryan didn't find a single species that had the nerve to build a camp in a destroyed human city and hunt dragons and megalodons at the same time.

“Well, that works just fine for me. Fighting against several of them isn't possible, but I can snipe them easily by using Force. Let's just hope that the simple plan will work, although most of the time, something unexpected always happens to cause me problems.”

Although Ryan had more or less a good idea as to how to proceed, he decided to rest a little and wait for the night. As usual, the attackers always have the defense at night.

Chapter 274

Although the giants looked dumb, and Mark said that they were dumb, those creatures at least were smart enough to create several bonfires around Miami, and around those bonfires, Ryan found at least three guards.

“Maybe I should look for a hole in their line of defense.”

Ryan did that, but the giants were pretty serious about their defenses. There wasn't a single point in which Ryan could take advantage of. Much to his surprise, instead of finding a weak point on their defenses, he found their strong points. Several armored giants had their camps near the ocean.... that was probably for them to fight more often against the megalodons.

Armored Giant Lv 110

Health: 25.000/25.000

Mana: 10.000/10.000

Stamina: 40.000 /40.000

Strength: 2100 (+350)

Dexterity: 300 (+50)

Speed: 300

Intelligence: 150

Endurance: 2500 (+350)

Control: 300

Mentality: 550 (+50)

Luck: 1500 (+50)

Recovery: 3500 (+450)

Willpower: 550 (+50)

Coins: —

Status:

Skill List

Offensive Physical Skills: Bash Lv 150

Passive Physical Skills: Iron Skin Lv 150, Bronze Skin Lv 150

Spells: Scream Lv 100

Support Skills: Fire Resistance Lv 110, Cold Resistance Lv 110, Pain Resistance Lv 110

“The heck... they even have bows that fit their size... no wonder they can hunt megalodons. I bet the firepower of those is amazing. Too bad the size is just insane.”

Ryan had spent too much time studying the enemies. It was time to send them to the next world. In any case, the same strategy he used on the reptilians wouldn't work, even though they had a similar scheme to guard their camp. The main reason was that they were too resilient, so assassinating them using normal means or even magic wasn't possible. However, Ryan knew a way on how to make good use of his pestilence bow and prevent the giants from each guard point from warning the others.

“I just need to attack their throats... that way. I will prevent them from making too much noise. The question is: can I attack three different throats and then cause enough damage to kill them before they make a ruckus even without their voice?”

There was only one way to find out... Ryan recalled a certain skill that he hadn't used in a while, and in a sense, it was even better than Power Shot to cause damage as fast as possible. It was Rapid Shot.

By focusing only on aiming the monster's throat, Ryan would have a lot more leeway, and the chances of him missing the three attacks will decrease as well. So, he decides to use it.

" I am thinking too much about this... if things go wrong, I just have to be faster and change my position. At least at night, I don't have to worry about the worst-case scenario."

To add some more piercing power, Ryan also used Lesser Wind Manipulation and Sting. In the end, a single bolt pierced the throat of his target quite deeply, and three magic projectiles landed on his face. Before Ryan could see the result, he did the same thing two other times, and he couldn't help but frown at what happened.

You obtained 110 coins.

You obtained 110 coins.

You obtained 110 coins.

All of Ryan's attacks caused critical damage, and even though not even that was enough to kill the giants, the poison the Bleed's effect did the rest of the work in just a few seconds.

"I spent a little more mana than I planned, but I can't complain with those results. Anyway, it has been a while since I enjoyed the combination of my archer's skills with the assassination style."

That combination will never work against the armored giants, but Ryan decided to focus on a single problem at a time.

"No drops, so let's move to the next group." Ryan muttered

Ryan repeated that strategy several times, but in the end, his head kept working to find other means to speed up his hunting speed. Like using steel needles with Telekinesis and using several of them to pierce the giants' heads simultaneously. While that seemed like a good way to finish his job faster, it wouldn't work because the needles would get stuck in the giants' heads, and Ryan could only control so many objects from a certain distance. The limit was probably related to his control, but in the end, Ryan just stuck with the first strategy.

However, around midnight things changed even though Ryan didn't mess up. When he looked to the camp he just cleaned, Ryan saw another group of three giants.

"Shit... They take turns on the guard duty. I should have waited a little more..." Ryan bit his lips in annoyance.

Those in guard duty changed places around noon and midnight. Ryan didn't see that because he arrived late in the afternoon.

"Crap... me and my habit of rushing things," Ryan said after clicking his tongue

Now, completely on alert, even if Ryan successfully killed the giants in silence, the other groups would notice since they were looking toward each other's directions.

Ryan sighed... it was a pity, but he will have to change his plans again. Not only that, even with another strategy, attacking that night will be a waste of time. Without any other choice, Ryan decided to retreat several kilometers.

"I can't mess up again... before deciding anything, let's see my options here."

His old strategy still could work. Besides, since that kind of fighting style might come in handy again, he decided to keep using the same skills. However, Ryan will need a diversion. After studying his skill list, he found the perfect diversion, his golems. The skill was at level one, and the cost was absurd, but Ryan knew the perfect way to solve those two problems: by clearing a dungeon using only his summoned monsters.

“That is another interesting fighting style that I had always been fond of it... weirdly enough, it looks like many classes work well with the sage class.”

Chapter 275

Ryan tried to recall the conversation that he had with Mark. More specifically, about the localization of the dungeons that haven't been cleared yet. It was quite the roundabout way to clear a tier-three dungeon, but to do that as fast as possible, Ryan will have to clear a lower level one and then built an army of golems.

“Let's see... I didn't pay much attention to that part since I am no longer interested in low-level dungeons, but if I remember correctly, there must be a red bats' dungeon somewhere North of here.” Ryan rubbed his chin thoughtfully.

Ryan knew that there were two dungeons South of Miami, but he couldn't head south yet for obvious reasons. In any case, after moving around for a full day, Ryan eventually found the dungeon hidden in a cemetery. Since the place was quite old, it looked quite scary and creepy, but Ryan didn't feel anything since two hundred golems surrounded him. He used all the mana he recovered during the day to summon them.

“How strange... I thought this place would be crowded with monsters... I am pretty sure that the dot representing this dungeon was red. Did Alissa clear this dungeon recently?”

Red Bat – Lv 70

Health: 900 /900

Mana: 1200/1200

Stamina: 1000/1000

Strength: 430 (+30)

Dexterity: 650 (+50)

Speed: 500 (+250)

Intelligence: 400 (+50)

Endurance: 350 (+50)

Control: 350 (+50)

Mentality: 550 (+150)

Luck: 150

Recovery: 450 (+100)

Skill List

Offensive Physical Skills: Drain Bite Lv 70

Passive Physical Skills: Eagle Eyes Lv 80

Spells: Fly Lv 10

Support Skills: Wind Resistance Lv 90, Water Resistance Lv 90, Cold Resistance Lv 90

That was a bit risky since it would increase the monsters' strength, but Ryan will have to cause a dungeon break. He couldn't wait for his monsters to kill 36 red bats per hour... in the end, Ryan left his golems at the dungeon entrance and then attacked the crystal from outside by using Force. As expected, the area trembled when the dungeon core was attacked. After a few seconds, thousands of Red Bats





appeared to leave the dungeon, but the vast majority got smashed by the golems. Although they were low-level, the difference between a bat and a golem was visible.

“Hehe, this is nice,” Ryan grinned while he watched his mana bar getting filled every few seconds and while summoning more golems.

Things got a bit more complicated, and Ryan had to slow down a bit on his summoning when the bosses appeared, but aside from that, he and his golems didn’t face many problems. The only real problem that Ryan noticed was that the red bats leveled up four times instead of two after the dungeon break.

“Shit... it looks like the more the dungeon breaks happen, the stronger their effects will be,” Ryan bit his lips in annoyance. “Perhaps instead of ambitions, Mark’s plans are absolutely necessary instead of fast-paced.”

Golem – Lv 30

Health: 600/600    

Mana: 300/300

Stamina: 600/600

Strength: 450

Dexterity: 100

Speed: 50

Intelligence: 50

Endurance: 500

Control: 250

Mentality: 500

Luck: 100

Recovery: 600

Skill List

Offensive Physical Skills: Earthquake Lv 50

Passive Physical Skills: Steel Skin Lv 50

Spells: Earth Bullet Lv 50

Support Skills: Earth Resistance Lv 150

Ryan nodded to himself after confirming the strength of his summoned monsters. While a single one of them wouldn't be a threat to another giant, at the very least, they can endure two of their attacks... Hopefully. Regardless, while those monsters draw the giant's attention, Ryan will massacre them from another position.

"931 golems... I guess this should be enough," Ryan muttered. "If I work fast enough, at the very least, I should be able to kill half of the ordinary giants. As for the armored ones... I still need to come up with a plan."

If the worst comes to the worst, Ryan can always use Power of Money, but that was just the easy way out. Regardless, before returning to Miami, Ryan had to check his loot. Since he killed dozens of thousands of Red Bats, the number of crap items lying around was impressive, but unfortunately, not even the bosses dropped anything worthwhile.

Congratulations! The skill Thunder Bullet has leveled up.

Congratulations! The skill Ice Storm has leveled up.

Congratulations! The skill Swordsmanship has leveled up.

In the end, instead of selling all of those, Ryan used Deconstruction and leveled up some skills. He could have made a lot more progress in just a few minutes, but he failed at it since he didn't have certain skills. Regardless, now Ryan was more or less ready, and he started to head towards Miami again.

“What the heck...” Ryan frowned.

Ryan couldn't help but open his mouth in amazement when he returned to that city. He had made sure to create an underground path in order for his golems not to reveal themselves, but thanks to it, he lost the chance to see the start of a crazy battle... Dozens of dragons were attacking the Giants' camp. However, that wasn't the thing he was impressed with. Ryan was impressed by the fact that the armored giants could leap hundreds of meters skyward and punch and kick the dragons faster than they could dodge. As if that wasn't enough, some of them even mounted on the dragons.

From that unexpected position, they could rip apart the dragons' scales and flesh with their bare hands and then grab their hearts even before the dragons could fall. To think that dozens of dragons could be easily killed... maybe they weren't at the top of the food chain like Ryan had imagined.

“I have to make use of this...” Ryan muttered while smiling from ear to ear.

Ryan couldn't let those armored giants become even stronger by eating dragon hearts, so he had to intervene, and he couldn't have waited for a better chance. All the giants were focused on the dragons, so Ryan managed to make his golems march onward without letting them being noticed.

While the armored giants were jumping around and trying to hit the dragons with their punches and kicks, the ordinary ones were busy using their massive bows to cause some damage as well. Thanks to that, Ryan managed to sneak around and slay dozens of them in just a few minutes, and before some of them finally noticed that they were being attacked by land as well.

When the giants turned around, they saw the golems' army moving toward them. Some of those who bow immediately tried to take down the golems before they could get too close, but Ryan made sure to hit their eyes and prevent it.

"Many of them have bows... I should focus on blinding them first," Ryan muttered.

When the armored giants noticed that a third party had joined the fight, the dragons finally got some room to breathe. However, that relief only lasted a few seconds. The armored giants only saw some golems, so they soon resumed their fight against the dragons. As expected, they were pretty dumb.

"I couldn't have asked for more," Ryan smirked.

It took him a few minutes, but eventually, Ryan managed to blink the one hundred or so giants that have bows. Some of them died, but their numbers were so low that Ryan couldn't even imagine such a loss in numbers affecting the fight. However, he went on a total offensive when his golems invaded the giants' camp and started to attack the monsters. He gave them the order to use Earth Bullet, and at the same time, he went all out with his Pestilence Crossbow.

When the giants saw the Earth Bullets, they were crazy enough to try to block the attack with their arms alone. They managed to do that, but Ryan hit them several times with his bolts, thanks to it. Those giants began to fall at a fearsome pace, and the bosses finally realized that something was off.

Although they realized that, it wasn't like they could just ignore the dragons and fight the third party. The armored giants hurried to finish off the dragons, but Ryan had already exterminated five thousand giants when they finally concluded their job.

"Not bad... wait, what is that?" Ryan frowned when he saw some shorter giants suddenly joining the fight.

Ryan opened his eyes in surprise when he saw what seemed to be kid giants joining the fight. For a moment, Ryan hesitated in attacking them, even though those were destroying his golems. Although he would never say it out loud, Ryan indeed had a weak spot for kids. He almost became a teacher after. Not only that, he once also dreamed of having a big family... it was no wonder why he only worried about Arthur and now Zoe since he gave a risky job. However, he hesitated only for a moment...

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“This is war... and they are monsters,” Ryan muttered while he pulled the trigger and slain several of them. “I can’t even count how many kids on the human side died... this is the price you will pay for invading our planet and slaying humans.”

Suddenly, Ryan’s firing speed increased. His focus reached its peak, and he turned into a killing machine. He was determined to slay all monsters, be they young or old, male or female. None of them will escape, and until his last breath, he will hunt all of them...

Ryan had counted that the giants had around fifteen thousand on their side, but it looked like their numbers had increased for twenty thousand due to the younger ones. Aside from that, the number of armored giants was around two hundred, and despite the battle against the dragons... their number didn’t decrease. Ryan soon understood a little better their strength when they joined the fight against the golems. A single one of them dashed forward, and dozens of his summoned creatures exploded in pieces. In the end, thirty or so armored giants defeated his whole army in less than five minutes.

“They are more troublesome than I thought...” Ryan rubbed his chin thoughtfully. “It is a pity, but I will have to retreat for the time being.”

Although he made that mistake before, Ryan didn’t have the intention to rush ahead without a proper plan. Besides, even though he lost his army, he learned many things. First of all, the Giants were bad at noticing small details. That was his plan of using the Earth Bullets with his poisoned bolts worked so well. Also, they focus too much on dealing with the enemies they could see. So, when they tried to find the summoner of the golems, Ryan was already very far away.

Ryan managed to decrease the enemy’s forces by around thirty percent, but he will do a better job next time... he just has to wait for the right moment, and that moment is when giants and dragons start to fight again.



“This time, I will properly watch the camp before doing anything,” Ryan nodded to himself. “It is too risky to cause another dungeon break, and it might take too long to find another dungeon... it can’t be helped; I will use proper use of my coins to buy mana potions and my recovery as well.”

Although summoned creatures could level up much faster by fighting, they could level up as well by sparring against each other and while being summoned. Ryan intended to make use of that and make the golems level up at least ten more levels.

The level-ups would help as well, but Ryan also decided to increase the size of the army. Even though the giants were dumb, Ryan didn’t want to let them get used to his tactics. So, despite the fact that he didn’t want to rush ahead, he intended to exterminate all the giants in the next fight.

“I guess this is fine... I am patient to create the golems,” Ryan muttered to himself. “I am trying to finish things as fast as possible because that is also the best strategy.”

For some reason, Ryan was making excuses to himself...

## Chapter 277

In the end, Ryan spent one million coins in mana potions to create an army of two thousand golems, the skill really reached level forty, and even his skill Sell leveled up quite a lot. Ryan felt confident in the next fight, but unfortunately, he had to wait for two days before another group of dragons could show up and challenge the giants.

“I wonder why they are so insistent...” Ryan frowned. “Is it because the giants would be a pretty big meal for them?”

In any case, Ryan waited until the focus of all giants was on the dragons. However, when he was about to attack, he noticed that something was off... only half of the giant archers were firing and hitting the dragons. While the others had their bows equipped, they weren’t doing anything.

“I see... they must have imagined that since I didn’t attack in the last two days, that I would for this kind of chance,” Ryan nodded to himself. “They might not be smart, but they aren’t brain-dead zombies either.”

Since that wouldn't help him decrease the number of enemies, Ryan avoided doing that, but in the end, he decided to use Telekinesis and break the bows of the giants. Although he will lose some time doing that, he will gain time and focus on breaking the weapons of those who were attacking the dragons.

After a while, Ryan had an even better idea... why use Telekinesis, a skill that becomes weaker the more distant he is from the target when he could use Power of Money and directly damage the weapons in a much faster manner? Ryan always wondered why the skill could work on things that didn't have health, but he understood everything has health, even magic items, after thinking for a while. Their health just had a different name. It was durable.

"Here I am thinking of another way to rely on Power of Money..." Ryan sighed. "Well, let's just accept that obediently since I can't let my pride make me waste time. Besides, I am losing coins to use that skill. That is more than enough punishment for my incompetence."






The giants frowned when the strings of their bows suddenly started to snap at a stupidly fast speed. Instead of repairing them, they tried to grab their reserves' weapons, but Ryan destroyed those two. To make the monsters even more shocked, Ryan gave the order for the golems to march, and when his monsters appeared in the distance, all the giants began to run toward them.

"They divided the work... the bosses will take care of the dragons, and the ordinary monsters will take care of the golems," Ryan muttered. "They probably realized as well that the longer the fight lasts, the more of them I will kill."

Just like before, Ryan made his golems fire Earth Bullets toward the giants. However, this time, they didn't try to protect their faces from the attacks. They accepted all the damage caused by the golems. However, when Ryan started to use his crossbow, the monsters began to grab the bolts with their bare hands. They suffered some damage, and the effects of poison and bleed were working, but Ryan's raw power had decreased quite a lot.

"Shit..." Ryan bit his lips in annoyance. "Try to grab this, you damned monster!"

The fight between giants and golems started. As expected. His monsters were enduring a bit more. So, Ryan used that chance to charge a Power Shot. While he was trying to kill as many giants as possible with a single strike, he was also for something else, and that something else happened when he fired.

You obtained 110 coins.     

You obtained 110 coins.

You obtained 110 coins.

Dozens of giants died, and a cloud of dust was raised due to the explosion. That was what Ryan had been waiting for. With their vision diminished thanks to the dust, Ryan managed to hit the giants, and they didn't have the chance to block his bolts. For a while, Ryan managed to massacre the giants freely, but soon something weird happened. While mounting two dragons, two armored giants left the battle in the sky and approached the place where Ryan's golems were. One of those fucking monsters made the dragon land in the middle of the golem's army, killing dozens of them. Meanwhile, the other... followed the direction the bolts were coming from.

"Come, dumbass," Ryan smirked. "I have a present for you."

Ryan made sure to fire a few more bolts to show the armored giant where he was, but then he stopped and began to charge another Power Shot. When the boss and the dragon reached the rocks, Ryan was using them as a cover. His attack welcomed them. In the end, the armored giant forcefully made the dragon move its neck to intercept the bolt. Although the attack lost a lot of power, the dragon still was killed, and the armored giant still got hit by the energy and was sent flying several meters backward.

You received 35.963 coins.

The number of coins Ryan received was low, but that didn't bother him. Instead of that, he nocked his Paralyzing Spear on the Sagittarians' bow and prepared to finish off the fucking armored giant. When the creature recovered from the impact, Ryan already had ten seconds charged Power Shot ready to be fired. Without any ceremony, he fired.

You obtained 45.269 coins.

The giant's head exploded when Ryan fired. In any case, the creature died, but Ryan received a lot more coins than he had expected... those extras were probably the coins the monster obtained by damaging the dragon.

When the giants saw one of their bosses being killed, they stopped their charge for a few seconds. It looked like it had been the first time they saw one of them being easily killed like that. Although Ryan couldn't say that it had been easy...

Regardless, there was no need to rely on stealth. Ryan had been found so that he could go all out. After recovering his Paralyzing Spear, Ryan nocked the weapon on his bow and prepared to decimate many more giants with a single attack... he had to hurry because the number of dragons was quickly decreasing.

## Chapter 278

In the end, when the dragons finally died, Ryan had managed to kill twenty thousand giants... it was a pretty impressive number, given that he did that in less than half an hour. However, he now only had five hundred golems under his control, and he still had to fight against two thousand giants and two hundred very pissed bosses.

"Mmm... maybe I should have picked the Necromancer class," Ryan forced a smile while seeing the mountain of corpses around the battlefield. "Using the skill of such a class will probably make me throw up a few times, but at the very least, the chances of me losing this fight would be pretty low."

Despite his words, Ryan didn't feel like giving up. He was determined to clear that dungeon that day. So, he only stored his bow, equipped his crossbow, and unleashed his magic weapons. Instead of giving the armored giants the chance to attack first, Ryan attacked the giants with his magic weapons alongside Telekinesis.

The armored giants ignored the golems since they knew once Ryan dies, the golems will disappear. Ryan smiled when he saw that things would be difficult for him, but his golems would last longer that way. Regardless, even though their armor looked pretty heavy, the bosses managed to cover the distance between them and Ryan in the blink of an eye. Several of them jumped toward him and crossed two hundred meters in half a second, and punched the spot he had been before. However, they didn't hit anything. Ryan used Flash and appeared a few meters on their left side, making poisoned bolts rain over them.

Ryan didn't know what their armor was made of, but his bolts didn't even leave a dent on it. He got a lot of interest in the material, but unfortunately, their fucking armor disappears when they die.

"It is time to change my plans... again." Ryan frowned.

The armored giants had most of their bodies protected by the armor. The only unprotected parts were the feet, hands, and head. Hitting any of them would be hard, but Ryan knew a way to obtain a chance to do that.

When the next group of bosses tried to smash Ryan, he used Flash again. When he appeared a few meters away from them, he bombarded the monsters with Electric Bullets. It was barely noticeable, but their armor conducted the electricity and shocked the monsters, paralyzing them for a few moments. Ryan used those to rain poisoned bolts on their faces.

"RRRRRRRRRRRRRAAAAAAAAAAAAAARRRRRRRRRRRRRRGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGHHHHHHHHH!"

Several of those monsters screamed from the depths of their soul when their eyes were destroyed. However, at that point in time, Ryan was already used to that. He just repeated the same thing over and over again until some bosses began to fall dead. ρ???√???(?)???

The monsters were in shock since they couldn't understand how come Ryan could have so much mana. If they weren't stupid, they would know that it was due to the golems and his magic weapons in which he was controlling to massacre the ordinary giants. Still, since their durability was high, Ryan could barely recover enough mana on time. Ryan was used too much mana to escape and attack, after all. To make matters worse, he used all his mana potions to eliminate the giants as fast as possible earlier.

"I guess this is it..." Ryan muttered while frowning. "I can keep doing this for a while longer, but soon, I won't be able to recover enough mana. Since I have some stamina potions, then I can rely on Power Shot, but..."

It looked like Ryan will be forced to change his plans much sooner than he expected. The giants were tough, and thanks to it, his magic weapons were losing durability. Before their weapons could break, Ryan made the golems form a semi-circle, and then at the same time, they used Earthquake. Some giants lost their foot and fell to the ground. Although the damage caused wasn't impressive, it served

Ryan well to save his weapons. Ryan's mana regeneration speed decreased a lot, but it had been just enough for him to escape from the armored giants and to repair his Paralyzing Spear.

"It is time, if I manage to kill several of them, I will recover a lot of mana in the blink of an eye," Ryan muttered after using Flash to escape another attack and while nocking the spear. "However, something has been bothering me... they have been repeating the same attack pattern over and over again, even though their numbers are decreasing. This is strange."

It took Ryan a while, but he eventually noticed. The armored giants weren't just attacking him blindly. They were positioning several groups around Ryan... after using Flash so many times, they already knew the range of the skill, so they knew until which point he could move.

When he noticed that, Ryan didn't have time to find a way to counter their formation. When a group of armored giants attacked him, he used Flash and appeared several meters above them, and he fired his Paralyzing Spear. However, at the same time, another group was already on the way, and somehow, they predicted that Ryan would do that.

Ryan used Extra Jump to avoid the group, but a single armored boss still managed to attack him in the end. At the last moment, Ryan activated Mana Shield, but his defense was shattered, and the massive fist of the monster hit his left shoulder.

When Ryan opened his eyes again, he was in the center of a small crater, and his whole body was hurting like hell. His attack killed several armored giants, but he didn't recover enough mana to use Full-Heal.

"Now you have done it... fucking worms," Ryan muttered.

Ryan slowly got up and then used Heal to recover his health and mend his broken bones a little. However, when he did that, he saw that the armored giants improved even further their encirclement. Somehow, Ryan killed one hundred of them, but the other one hundred surrounded him completely, and they had no intention of underestimating him.

Ryan's body was hurting too much for him to make a decent plan. Besides, he didn't have time, so he decided to accept the lesser of the two evils. Or, in his case, the less troublesome of the possible outcomes.

The ground started to tremble around the armored giants, and they noticed that the golems were heading toward them. That had been the chance Ryan had been waiting for. In order to prevent any other unknown factors from interfering with the fight, several of them armored giants dashed toward Ryan and punched his body. However, they only a thin mirror of ice that Ryan had left behind. That was the power of his spell, Mirror.

Although the skill didn't cause much damage, Ryan obtained enough time to reposition himself. After using Flash a few times, now he was behind the armored giants. The only problem was that he wasn't with his Paralyzing Spear, and the plan he had made ended with that. Now, he had to improvise.

While Ryan was thinking of what to do, the remaining of his army of golems were being massacred by the front and the back. In the end, it looked like the only option was to retreat again. He already had decreased the strength of the enemy quite a lot, after all. One more wave of attack, and he could finish the job... However, Ryan was refused to retreat again... not completely, at least.

"It is time for some kitting and to use a skill I never used before..." Ryan muttered while he was gaining some distance from the armored giants.

Thanks to his stealth, Ryan managed to hide again and charge another Power Shot without being disrupted. After charging for a full minute, he fired, but this time he used some extra mana and activated Brute Arrow. A skill that empowered his attacks and also could stun or make the targets that got hit move a few meters backward.

When Ryan's attack landed, the explosion killed several armored giants. At the same time, those who survived were sent flying dozens of meters in the distance. Ryan smirked since he recovered all his mana and managed to use Full-Heal and his broken bones were back to normal.

"Much better," Ryan said.

While the bosses were recovering from the surprise attack, Ryan was already preparing the second Power Shot. When the beasts finally found his position, they dashed toward him mindlessly. However,

they spread around the area at the last minute since they knew that his attacks could decimate several of them in the blink of an eye.

“Dumbasses...” Ryan muttered while smiling.  $\rho \int \frac{1}{r^2} dr$

Ryan fired anyway, and his attack didn't hit anything... aside from the mass of giants that were attacking his golems. Hundreds of them died, and while his mana was being filled every moment, Ryan used Flash to approach his summoned creatures. It was strange, he couldn't remember the time he managed to use so many times in a single second, but he was one kilometer away from the bosses in the blink of an eye.

“I wonder if I hit my head or something,” Ryan frowned. “I feel strangely light...”

Ryan began to charge another Power Shot. However, at the same time, he fired several Electric Bullets on the fallen giants to paralyze them for a few more moments and give the golems more time to smash them apart.

Before the armored giants could react on time, half of their underlings had died. The numbers in that fight were starting to get a little more even, but Ryan wasn't satisfied yet. He made his golems form a circle around the giants, and at the center of that circle, Ryan started to freeze the monsters with his Ice Storm... the poor monsters tried to escape, but with the Ice Storm pulling them to the center and with the golems using Earthquake, didn't have any chance.

Coming from several directions, the armored giants rejoined the fight. As if Ryan would let such a simple strategy bother him... he just fired his Power Shot on the ground several meters ahead of him, and then a massive cloud of dust was raised. The monsters lost sight of Ryan, but Ryan didn't lose sight of them, thanks to Radar. With the Chaos Axe in hand, Ryan started his massacre.

Suddenly, an armored giant felt something landing on its back. Before he could turn, Ryan attacked the back of his head by using all the buffs that could increase his strength alongside Concentrated Strike. His attack knocked down the monster but didn't kill it. The beast kissed the ground and grunted in pain.

Congratulations! The skill Concentrated Strike reached level five.



“Right, I need to level up this to become more useful,” Ryan muttered.

Ryan used Concentrated Strike several other times without concentrating it until the monster fell dead. He had to be faster. Eventually, the dust will vanish, and the monsters will find him. Or even worse, they will try to escape... After using Sting to pick up the pace, Ryan killed the armored giants one after the other, and in the end, they made a terrible mistake by splitting up.

Some of them grunted and warned the others to leave the area, but that had already been too late. In the end, when the dust vanished, only twenty armored giants were alive, and all the ordinary monsters had been killed.

“It is your choice now,” Ryan said with the crossbow in one hand and the ax in the other. “You can proudly while fighting, or you can die like cowards by running. Your freaks caused me a lot of trouble, so there is no third option.

Ryan didn’t know if they understood his message, but he understood the look in their eyes when they looked around and saw the mountain of corpses that once had been their friends. They looked at Ryan as if he was some piece of trash. Despite that, he felt nothing... they were the invaders, not him.

## Chapter 280

When the fight ended, Ryan let himself fall to the ground. He was exhausted. The fight had been that difficult. Despite that, that feeling of lightness still was around, making me feel pretty good.

While Ryan enjoyed that feeling, he decided to give a brief summary of what happened to Mark. He wouldn’t go back after receiving his next class. He will go further south to check how things were in other countries. Much to his surprise, the very moment he took the cellphone from his ring, it started to... ring.

“You don’t even have the decency to pretend that you didn’t watch everything, huh?” Ryan asked.

“I thought you would feel even more annoyed if I pretended,” Mark said. “Regardless, it looks like you have some problems, but, in the end, things worked out for you. Congratulations.

“Spare me of your praise. I am going to pass you the data I got about the monsters,” Ryan said.  
“Sometime later, I will tell you about the classes.”

“Understood, do you intend to leave some golems behind to keep the giants in check?” Mark asked.

“I guess I will do that,” Ryan replied.

“Now about your next destination, do you have a place in mind you want to go?” Mark asked.

“No, I will just follow the West coast of the continent and deal with whatever monster I find along the way while I look for the tier three dungeons,” Ryan said.

“Do you want to leave a message to anyone?” Mark asked.

“No,” Ryan said.

“Is that so...” Mark said. “Well, if you don’t mind, I would like to contact you once a week to hear about the things you find along the way.”

“I don’t like to repeat myself, but I don’t intend to give information for free,” Ryan said.

“Don’t worry. I will make sure to save your payment. You have my word,” Mark said. “I am sure you will return eventually.”

After saying that, Mark ended the call. Although that was a bit annoying, in the end, he was right. Eventually, Ryan will have to check things on the base. Despite the fact that he could check things on Zoe and Arthur with Search, he couldn’t interfere from a distance, and he wasn’t stupid enough to rely on Alissa for that.

Regardless, Ryan got up and started to look for loot amidst the battlefield. While Ryan was walking around the corpses, he thought that he had come a long way since everything started. In the beginning, he wondered if he was adapting too fast, but after three months, he could walk around dozens of

corpses without thinking too much about it. He learned that there was no need to mourn the death of his enemies, even more so when he had been the one who took their lives.

Many items were dropped, but only two daggers picked Ryan's interest. They were the most powerful items he had obtained from the fight, but what grabbed his attention was the fact that a thin chain linked them.

### Cursed Daggers

Effect: When attacking the same opponent over and over again, these daggers can decrease their agility permanently. The effect will last until the foe is killed or the foe manages to escape the user's sight.

Speed + 50, Dexterity + 50

Durability: 80/80

"Interesting..." Ryan rubbed his chin thoughtfully. "I was really looking forward to obtaining a useful knife since I didn't level up Knife Mastery many times. Still, this is much better than I asked for."  
p??J??(?)???

After organizing the loot, selling the things that he didn't need, and using Deconstruct on those which could be used to some extent, Ryan entered the dungeon. In comparison to the previous dungeon in which he entered alongside others, Ryan didn't feel nervous or worried this time. It looked like the fighting experience was starting to change him... although Ryan imagined that would happen, he didn't expect it would happen so soon.

"I'd better not get carried away," Ryan muttered. "There is no telling if those annoying thoughts won't return if someone kicks my ass again."

In any case, Ryan didn't find a single boss inside the dungeon. The giants spawned now and then, but they were no longer a threat to Ryan. Alone, they had never been a threat.

Congratulations! You have cleared the dungeon and obtained its treasure! As a reward for your achievement, you can obtain one of the three following classes: Royal Knight, Sentinel, and Conjurer.

Please be aware that clearing this dungeon again won't give you the chance to unlock the other remaining classes. If you want to obtain them, you will have to search for those in other dungeons.

“My guess was correct... the fact those three classes are different from the other tier three dungeons is also good. Well, now... the real problem. Which class should I choose?”

At that point in time, Ryan was only asking for the sake of asking. Even though he might consider his options, he knew himself very well to know the path that he will choose. Ryan needed more raw power... whenever he thought of that, he recalled that scene where Lilith grabbed his arrow with such ease. Although he wasn't getting that annoyed anymore just by thinking about it, it didn't mean that he didn't care about it.

Congratulations! You have become a Level one Sentinel!

You obtained the following skills: Charge Trap, Summon Warg, and Awareness.

Your dexterity and stamina will increase by six points, your health, mana, control, and speed will increase by three points whenever you level up your class.

Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Charge Trap.

Effect: It grants you the power to summon a magic trap that becomes more powerful over time. The damage will be equal to your intelligence plus the value in seconds in which the trap stayed hidden. The trap can be charged up to the skill level x 20.

Cost: 100 mana

You obtained 01 status point.

Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Summon Warg.

Effect: It grants you the power to summon an ancient species of wolf known for their loyalty toward their masters and ferocity when fighting to protect them. Attention! You can only summon a single wolf, and the beast can grow stronger the more it fights. Every time the Warg is killed, they won't be able to be summoned for the next 24 hours, and five points will decrease all status. The more the skill level up, the time of the cooldown will decrease.

Cost: 500 mana

You obtained 01 status point.

Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Awareness.

Effect: It makes you aware when someone is watching you while trying to hide their presence. The range of the skill is equal to the level of the skill multiplied by ten in meters.

You obtained 01 status point.

“Those are... some interesting skills,” Ryan frowned even though he felt satisfied.

Ryan recalled that there was a game in which he replied in the past that one of the archer classes could summon wargs and use them for mobility and combat, but he didn't expect to one day have such skill. Moreover, unlike any other summoning skill, Ryan could only summon the same creature over and over again with that one.