

Domain 281

Chapter 281

As if the skill didn't have a weird enough description and effect, when Ryan summoned his Warg, he only saw a wolf that looked only a few months old. The monster had white and blue fur, and it seemed kind of cool with its blue eyes. However, it didn't seem like a powerful creature that could be used for combat. At best, it was the size of an ordinary dog.

Warg (Change Name)

Health: 150/150

Mana: 150/150

Stamina: 150/150

Strength: 50

Dexterity: 50

Speed: 150

Intelligence: 50

Endurance: 50

Control: 150

Mentality: 50

Luck: 50

Recovery: 150

Willpower: 50

Coins: —

Status: 00

Skill List

Offensive Physical Skills:

Passive Physical Skills:

Spells:

Support Skills:

“It looks like I will have to train you from the very beginning, huh,” Ryan said while looking at his Warg.
“Your name will be... Furball.”

Strangely enough, Furball barked as if it had approved its name. In the end, Ryan saw himself suddenly scratching the neck of his new partner. He never thought about that before, but it looked like Ryan was a wolf person.

“Oh, boy... it looks like I turned into an old man,” Ryan sighed. “I only care about kids and animals.”

Time was of the essence. Even though it looked like Furball could become a cute pet, Ryan decided to transform him into a killing machine. Without wasting time, he started his training regime.

“Go on, keep running until your stamina drops to zero,” Ryan said. “Once that happens, I will restore your stamina.”

In the blink of an eye, Furball learned Dash and started to train the skill. At the same time, Ryan checked what he could obtain in the shop after restocking his potion supply. Ryan’s options increased, but he didn’t find anything that could increase his power as a man archer. In the end, he just decided to buy tomes to teach Furball some passive skills. Ryan didn’t want to spoil his new ally, but he couldn’t let him die that easily either. So, Ryan made him learn Quick Legs and Stone Skin.

“This should increase your survivability a little bit,” Ryan said. “Anyway, let’s get going. With some luck, we will find an appropriate dungeon to train you along the way.”

In the end, Ryan learned that his job to train Furball would be simpler than he thought. When the skill to summon him leveled up, the cooldown to summon him decreased, but all his status also increased by five points. Still, Ryan wished that the damn system could give more details about the skills.

Despite the pleasant surprise, Ryan had to focus for quite a while at increasing Furball’s speed since he was much faster. Sometimes, Ryan even used Telekinesis to make him rest and increase their moving speed.

Two days later, Ryan and Furball finally reached the west coast, and they also had just entered the Mexican territory. Although that speed was unsatisfactory, it couldn’t be helped since he was training Furball pretty intensely. All his elemental resistances had even reached level ten already.

“The real thing starts here,” Ryan said while looking at the ocean. “I wonder if I should use myself as bait to kill some megalodons. They are just oversized fish, so if I charge Power Shot and use Flash at the last minute, I should be able to kill them.”

That was an important subject since Ryan didn’t kill a single monster in two days, and he had to share his food with Furball. Who could have thought that Mark caused him so many problems just by sealing a few dungeons? In the end, he couldn’t complain all that much since that was for the good of the country.

“Maybe even without Power Shot, I can win,” Ryan said. “My attack speed and overall power are pretty high; besides, the effect of pestilence crossbow will stack.”

Although Furball won't be able to eat the corpse due to the poison, one can't have everything they want. In any case, much to Ryan's deception, he didn't see a single megalodon in several hours, and the first type of monster he found were some Sahuagins after running for several hours. Their level was pretty high, so Ryan did Furball a favor and fried them alive with Electric Bullet.

“Level eighty...” Ryan muttered while he watched Furball eat the fried fish. “Most likely, the dungeon this thing came from already broke three times... should I clear it?”

That was a tough call. Although Ryan already helped a lot of Mexicans once, he could do it again, and it wasn't like the job would take too much of his time. Still, not only Ryan decided not to waste his time, but he also didn't find the dungeon.

“You sure have a bit of an appetite, huh,” Ryan frowned when Furball took a bite of another Sahuagin he had killed.

Furball's mana has increased by one point.

“... What?” Ryan muttered in shock.

Furball's status increased while he was eating... although it was weird, it did make sense. That would explain why monsters were so eager to eat humans. While they couldn't obtain classes, they had their own means to grow stronger. Most of them could absorb mana from the environment. While summoned couldn't do that, they could become stronger when their master's skills level up.

“Interesting...” Ryan said. “While it is good that you can become stronger by using several methods, we can't stop all the time to let you eat. Still, it would be pretty awesome if I let you eat Sahuagins for a while in order to make your mana increase.”

If Ryan's status could increase like that, he would eat until his stomach explodes. While mana was important, Ryan didn't want to turn Furball into a mage-like monster. Since his status could increase in several different ways, Ryan intended to turn him into his shield. The plan to make him into a killing machine had been upgraded. While Ryan perhaps could make him become both, he decided not to be too greedy for the time being. Some caution was necessary while dealing with something knew that he still had only a little knowledge about.

Class: Hunter Lv 61 (+ 03 UP / Elementalist Lv 55 (+ 02 UP)/ Monk Lv 16 (-)

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

Rank: 271st

Health: 779 /779 (3,32/s)

Mana: 1589 /1589 (3,32/s)

Stamina: 1157 /1157 (3,32/s)

Strength: 31 (+166) (+130)

Dexterity: 1300 (+980) (+57)

Speed: 85 (+459) (+48)

Intelligence: 81 (+459) (+3)

Endurance: 28 (+131) (+130)

Control: 06 (+471) (+10)

Mentality: 08 (+36) (+30)

Luck: 74 (+15)

Recovery: 700 (+964) (+330)

Willpower: 30 (+36)

Coins: 8.331.119

Status: 00

Skill List

Offensive Physical Skills: Power Shot Lv 77 (+ 05 UP), Stamina Drain Lv 11 (+ 10 UP), Concentrated Strike Lv 11 (+ 10 UP),

Passive Physical Skills: Resistance Lv 30 (+ 05 UP), Discount Lv 25 (+ 10 UP), Awareness Lv 01,

Spells: Charge Trap Lv 01, Summon Warg Lv 01,

Support Skills:

Classes:

Combat: Sage Lv 52 (+ 03 UP), Archer Lv 52 (+ 03 UP), Summoner Lv 29 (+ 05 UP), Combat Archer Lv 34 (+ 03 UP), Sorcerer Lv 21 (+ 03 UP), Sniper Lv 25 (+ 04 UP), Weapons Master Lv 06 (+ 05 UP), Sentinel Lv 01,

Non-Combatant:

Race: Centaur

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For some reason, Ryan didn't find a single dungeon on his way while he crossed the entire west coast of Mexico. The type of monsters wasn't that diverse either... it was hard to know if it was due to the number of dungeons in the country that seemed to be low or if it was due to the damage caused by the Chupacabras. While Ryan was wondering about that, the cellphone Mark gave him started to ring. Mark sure was impatient for a man of his age...

"What?" Ryan asked.

"It looks like you found a new friend Ryan," Alissa said. "We can see that you two are pretty close even though you know each other for such a short time."

Ryan's head began to hurt since it looked like Alissa was trying really hard not to burst into laughter. Regardless, to think that Mark would keep an eye on him even this far... no, by using the satellite, he probably could see everything happening in the whole continent. The problem was the time he was waiting.

"What do you want, Alissa?" Ryan asked. "I don't have time to talk nonsense."

"Really? You look pretty much free right now," Alissa said. "You are quite weird; how can you be only nice to kids and animals. Are you really that lonely?"

"Yeah, I am lonely. I feel so lonely just like everyone who looked at your chest... chopping board," Rya said.

"WHAT DID YOU SAY?" Alissa howled, and Ryan ended the call.

Since Alissa didn't have anything to say, Ryan didn't feel like hearing her crap. Regardless, Ryan decided to store his cellphone on the storage ring for a few days in order to avoid Alissa.

Around noon of the next day, Ryan reached Guatemala's territory, and at that moment, he was one hundred percent sure that something was off with the Megalodons. He didn't find a single one of them that was too odd.

"I don't know if this is bad or good, but... not knowing why those beasts aren't appearing is unsettling," Ryan said while facing Furball.

Ryan soon had to forget about that because something weird was also happening on land. He thought he would find many more monsters while he heads to the South, but his guesses were completely off the mark. Moreover, when he found a dungeon on his way, he also found a camp and a group of four survivors around it. Two men and two women.

"Well, now... what should I do?" Ryan rubbed his chin thoughtfully.

While it wasn't that shocking that some countries and their citizens managed to survive this far, that wasn't the real question. Thanks to his high dexterity, Rya could see from pretty far away, so he found the dungeon and the survivors, but they had no idea that someone was approaching. Should Ryan talk with them in order to obtain Intel, or should he just do the usual and find the answers he wanted on his own? That caused some issues when he was hunting the Chupacabras...

"I don't have many good experiences while interacting with people I don't know since the monsters appeared," Ryan frowned. "But I guess I just need to be careful."

Ryan used Appraisal and confirmed that those survivors had only six classes, and most of the skills didn't reach level thirty. While that was disappointing, it seemed pretty normal considering that they were guarding a dungeon. From an ordinary standpoint, Ryan was the weird one. He had four times more classes than most people, and his main skill already reached level 75...

"Well, you stay behind just in case, Furball," Ryan said. "There is a chance that they don't know that humans can tame and summon monsters so that they might misunderstand us together."

Furball protested by whipping for a while, but in the end, he obeyed Ryan and stayed behind. After that, Ryan also stored his magic items inside his storage ring, and now he was wearing just chainmail, his sprinter boots. His only weapon was an ordinary steel sword which he made by using Earth Transformation.

Ryan just walked toward the camp normally, and when he was more or less fifty meters away from it, those four finally noticed his presence and pointed their weapons at him. As expected, they frowned when they saw a man alone approaching their base, but they didn't lower their guard. A dark-haired woman who had a small scar on her cheek said something, but Ryan had no idea what she said. Even in the apocalypse, the language barrier was a problem.

"Sorry, I only speak English." Ryan forced a smile.

"Are you American?" The woman asked with a frown. "Why did you come here? What is your goal?"

"I have some relatives in Brazil, so I have been traveling to reach that country for a while," Ryan told the made-up story he had prepared in advance. "I just came to ask a few things; I will leave soon."

"What do you want to know?" The blond-haired woman asked.

Ryan was caught off guard when he heard that. Since the woman and her friends looked pretty on guard, the usual answer would be to tell him to scram.

"My goal is to reach Brazil, but I need to be careful since I am alone," Ryan replied. "At the same time, I need strength, and well, I wanted to like the best route to cross your country and if there is an easy dungeon nearby in which I can clear."

"We can't sell that kind of information since it is directly related to the safety of our country," the woman said. "However, you can buy that information from our leader if he thinks you are trustworthy enough."

Finding another person to look for Intel... and buying information. Ryan had never been at the end of that exchange, but there was a first time for everything. However, for some reason, Ryan was feeling a bit worried when he heard about those guys' leaders.

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“All right, where can I find your leader?” Ryan asked while looking around.

“Don’t worry, someone will take you to our capital when the time comes,” the woman said. “Tomorrow, someone will come to get the loot that we obtained, and you can go with them.”

Ryan sighed when he heard that. He didn’t feel like waiting that long. Besides, why would that woman be willing to help so easily when she never asked his name? That was just too suspicious.

In the end, Ryan smiled, and in the blink of an eye, he disappeared. While the woman and her friends were panicking, Ryan finally returned to where he left Furball.

“Screw it, as if I have time to waste dealing with this bullshit,” Ryan said. “I guess I will just fly above the country.”

Given how good his current eyesight was, Ryan probably could find the best routes and the dungeons’ location by flying a few kilometers above the ground. That part of the continent wasn’t that big, after all. Ryan probably could investigate and check the territory of the whole country in just a few hours.

Although some tier two classes could be a fine addition to his list, Ryan was fully aware that he couldn’t just invade those to get new classes. Not only he will make some humans as his enemies, but it was kind like invading someone’s house, opening the fridge, and then stole some soda. The people from Guatemala worked hard to obtain control over the dungeons, so they had the right to decide who can use their dungeons.

Despite the fact that Furball had grown quite a bit in the last few days, with his current powers, Ryan could use Telekinesis just fine to make him and Furball flying without worrying about mana. In any case, while flying above the country for a few hours, Ryan learned that most cities had been completely annihilated with the exception of their capital and had been abandoned. Despite that, the number of monsters running around was really low. The reasons were, Guatemala only had ten dungeons, and all of them were under the control of a group of at the very least six survivors.

“That is the basic formation, after all,” Ryan nodded to himself. “Still, it is a pity that they don’t have tier three dungeons here. Even their classes are classes that I already have or have no use for.”

His reconnaissance being over, Ryan hurried to move forward down south. For some reason, something has been bothering him, but Ryan couldn’t quite pinpoint what that was. Perhaps it was about the leader the black-haired woman mentioned... in any case, Ryan eventually left Guatemala behind and proceeded to walk again after he made sure that their dungeons were several dozens of kilometers behind him.

Although that wasn’t his area of expertise, Ryan had a pretty good memory, so he knew which countries he would find on his path. The next one had been El Salvador, a pretty small country, and due to its size, Ryan only found three dungeons there. However, he didn’t find a single survivors camp or any sign of them. The dragons and monsters had decimated the cities of the country. If some people survived until now, they were pretty hidden. Seeing that the chances of the entire population of that country have been killed made was pretty high, Ryan felt his heart growing colder. Perhaps it was time for some monster hunting...

“I think you have working pretty hard, Furball,” Ryan said while looking at the Velociraptors, Giant Bees, and Red Bats below. “You deserve a reward... it is time for a feast.”

Ryan used Flame Arrows, Electric Bullets, and Frozen Arrows left and right to massacre the monsters in front of him. They died without even noticing what killed them. Although it would take too long to clear even low-tiered dungeons that broke three times, Ryan needed information. He needed to know what status each type of monster would give to Furball. Fortunately, he was omnivorous, so he could see pretty much anything... which was kind of scary.

Another thing Ryan could do was to train some skills passively. Training Summon Golem was pretty easy since those creatures didn’t have to eat, and they were quite sturdy. While Ryan massacred the monsters, his mana was being recovered pretty fast, so he used that to summon some golems.

“Auto Farm, huh,” Ryan nodded to himself in satisfaction. “This isn’t so bad.”

The only problem with that auto farm was that Ryan could only gain experience in some skills and classes. There was no loot and coins. Regardless, while frowning at Furball’s seemingly infinite appetite, Ryan learned that Velociraptors could increase his strength, Giant Bees could increase his speed, and

Red Bats could increase his pet's mentality. Without thinking too much about it, Ryan made Furball focus on eating the Giant Bees.

"Eat and grow strong," Ryan said while patting his head. "Someday, you will help me move around at fearsome speeds. I also can't have you die often, so let's find a monster that can increase your endurance and health after this."

It was weird, but... Ryan noticed that he wasn't feeling so anxious to fight and find tougher opponents anymore. Furball was having a positive effect on him, but Ryan also noticed that his demeanor changed a bit during the fights with the giants. Almost dying with a single attack affected him in a weird manner.

Regardless, after letting Furball fill his belly nonstop for an entire night, Ryan and he proceeded to move South after leaving an army of one thousand golems behind to slay some monsters. He was fully aware that they wouldn't exterminate all the creatures. In fact, the bosses will wipe out his army in a few days, but in the end, Ryan couldn't waste more time in there. Things can change at any minute, and a source of valuable intel might disappear or die at any minute, after all.

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In just half an hour, Ryan crossed Honduras. Since he didn't find any new type of monster running around, he also concluded that he wouldn't find anything in there. However, when he was about to move to Nicaragua, his cellphone started to ring. Hesitantly, Ryan accepted the call.

"Who is it?" Ryan asked.

"It is me... I apologize," Mark said. "It looks like I caused you some problems without knowing."

"Without knowing, you say..." Ryan frowned.

"Yes. Alissa asked me to use the satellite for a while, and so I let her," Mark explained. "Something came up, and I had to leave in the room alone. Later, she explained what she did."

“Whatever just go straight to the point,” Ryan said.

In the end, Mark wanted to know more details about the classes Ryan found in the giants’ dungeon. At the same time, he wanted to know where he was and about the things he found along the way. Since that was something Ryan had to do once a week and he eventually would be paid for it, he decided to tell him the details.

“So, you found some survivors in Guatemala, and apparently, they managed to guard all the dungeons,” Mark said, apparently interested in the subject. “Although they have few dungeons, maybe we can create an alliance with them, alongside with the Mexicans.”

“You will have to find someone else to do the mediating job,” Ryan said. “Besides, I would recommend sending some guys to collect intel about the place while they remain hidden. Something looked fishy there.”

“Is that so?” Mark said. “If you think we should be careful with some reason, maybe we should just wait and see for the time being.”

“Anything new on your end?” Ryan asked while massaging his eyebrows. “If a tier-three dungeon appears in our territory, I want to know immediately.”

“I will inform you if that happens. However, only tier one dungeons have been appearing since we started to monitor the dungeons,” Mark explained.

That was weird... in any case, Mark didn’t want to take too much more of Ryan’s time, so he ended the call there. Although Ryan was making that trip around the American continent, he realized that he wouldn’t find many answers. As far as he was concerned, at best, he will learn how some countries fared when the monsters arrived. However, anything related to the system was something beyond him.

“It looks like that after this trip, my next mission will be to exterminate all the monsters of a foreigner world completely,” Ryan rubbed his chin thoughtfully. “I need to understand more the power of the bosses and that dungeon’s blessing.”

After making a mental note about that, Ryan resumed his journey. Although he thought he wouldn't find anything during that day as well, Ryan's assumptions were off the mark. He found a lake on his path, and around it, he also found some weird monsters that he never saw before.

Jellyfish Lv 95

Health: 1.000/1.000

Mana: 1.000/1.000

Stamina: 1.000 /1.000

Strength: 200 (+50)

Dexterity: 300 (+50)

Speed: 200

Intelligence: 500

Endurance: 300

Control: 200

Mentality: 500 (+250)

Luck: 600 (+150)

Recovery: 200 (+250)

Willpower: 500 (+250)

Coins: —

Status:

Skill List

Offensive Physical Skills: Charge Lv 50

Passive Physical Skills: Focus Lv 70, Concentration Lv 70

Spells: Acidic Bullet Lv 100, Acidic Explosion Lv 100, Corrosive Touch Lv 10

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

For some reason, those Jellyfish-like monsters were flying around the lake. It wasn't like Ryan had imagined that they wouldn't be able to live outside water, but he still found it weird. Regardless, despite the fact that their statuses weren't impressive, the fact that they were like three meters long and tall was pretty impressive and fearsome. The skills they had were also worrisome.

“The forest around the lake is quite dense, so I can't find their dungeon,” Ryan muttered. “Still, would their dungeon be localized outside water? Although Sahuagins could walk just fine inland, their dungeon was also pretty close to a lake... could it be... is their dungeon underwater?”

Ryan's head began to hurt just by thinking how difficult it would be to clear an underwater dungeon. Maybe if he obtains certain classes, it will become feasible, but Ryan had no confidence in pulling that off even with his current skills and statuses. For obvious reasons, clearing such a dungeon will be even harder than defeating Chupacabras and giants.

“There is a first time for everything... in any case, I should decrease their numbers from a safe position for the time being,” Ryan said. “They can fly, so I don’t have any advantage in the air.”

Ryan had no idea if he would get a tier three-class by clearing that dungeon, but he still wanted to clear it. Why? Because it was a worthy challenge. Until now, he always fought while trying to find the best conditions for him, but now he probably won’t be able to find those conditions. Still, he couldn’t let the population of those monsters continue to grow non-stop.

“I don’t think poison will work on those...” Ryan frowned while he was creating a vantage point using Earth Manipulation. “Still, the speed and power of the crossbow will help me here. The real question is: can you that kind of monster, Furball?”

Furball barked as if he was saying yes... in any case when the Jellyfish die, they will probably explode since they had that skill. So, most likely, Furball will have to lick their remaining on the ground. Hopefully, the liquid won’t damage him, and even if it does, he will obtain resistance to acid. Ryan also needed that skill...

“I guess both of us are going to have a hard time here,” Ryan patted Furball’s head. “Hopefully, all this annoyance will be worth the hassle.”

After that, Ryan began to concentrate, and when his concentration reached its peak, he started the massacre.

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Just as Ryan had imagined, the poison didn’t work on those monsters. However, they were weak. Only two of his crossbows were enough to make them go kaboom. The creatures he killed exploded, and the liquid inside their bodies spread around. Also, just like Ryan had expected, the liquid was highly corrosive. It even melted the ground to some extent and knocked down some trees.

“Maybe if I freeze them, you can eat them as ice-cream, so don’t lose your hope yet, Furball,” Ryan said while he was firing his bolts like a machine-gun.

You obtained 85 coins.

You obtained 85 coins.

You obtained 85 coins.

‘!

Ryan hoped that the corrosive liquid would make other Jellyfish explode, but unfortunately, that never happened. In the end, after Ryan just killed the fiftieth monster, they finally found the direction the attacks were coming from and thus headed toward Ryan.

“Mmm’! maybe I should have put some traps or summoned some golems to hold them back a little,” Ryan thought. “Oh, well, they are slow. I can outspeed them with ease.”

When the monsters got close enough, they started to fire their Acidic Bullets. Ryan blocked them all with his shield and managed to return some of the monsters’ damage and make them suffer some damage, slowing them down even further. However, he wouldn’t be able to that for long.

Spiked Golden Shield

Effect: Reflects three percent of the damage back to the enemy. Health + 50, Endurance + 40

Durability: 155/200

“It is losing a lot of durabilities pretty fast’!” Ryan muttered. “It can’t be helped.”

Ryan stored his shield away and grabbed Furball under his left arm. He turned around while attacking the Jellyfish that was heading toward him. Suddenly, one of his bolts hit an Acid Bullet, the projectile was destroyed, but some liquid fell on Ryan’s shoulders. His health decreased by twenty points, and his endurance and mentality also decreased a little bit.

Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Acid Resistance.

Effect: Decreases the damage caused by all acid-type attacks by one point per level.

You obtained 01 status point.

“I should have known that this type of attack would have this kind of effect,” Ryan said and then hissed in pain. “It is temporary, but still’ ¦ who could have thought only two droplets could cause so much pain.”

Obviously, it was due to his extreme offensive build. In any case, Ryan used Flash to gain some distance over the monsters, and then he resumed his attack. After retreating several times, Ryan decided that it was time to change his strategy. Turning around every single time always make him lose too much time.

The next time Ryan decided to use Flash, he just moved his eyes a little to the side and then reappeared on the left side of that group of monsters. This time his actions had been less obvious, so the creatures had no idea where he went.

Ryan used that change to charge a Power Shot. Although the monsters eventually found him due to the change in the air caused by the concentration of energy, it was already too late when they did. Ryan fired his bolt, and hundreds of those monsters died. He hurried to make good use of all that extra mana by summoning golems, but as expected, a lot of energy was wasted.

“Something is off’ ¦” Ryan muttered while frowning. “I am pretty close to the lake, so why the bosses didn’t come yet?”

Ryan continued to massacre the Jellyfish, but in the end, he eventually won. Now that he thought about it, the number of monsters around the lake was too small, considering that three dungeon breaks happened, and they have been spawning for three months straight.

“I don’t like this’ ¦” Ryan said.

Ryan killed around two thousand monsters, it wasn’t a small number, but it wasn’t impressive either’ ¦ what had happened to the others? Based on his calculations, the dungeons must have spawned around one hundred thousand Jellyfish without considering the dungeon breaks.

When Ryan approached the lake again, he saw some Jellyfish leaving and assuming their positions around it. Although that behavior wasn't odd since he saw several monsters guarding the territory around the dungeons, the Jellyfish were too dumb for that. Ryan killed thousands of them without worrying about his safety for a single second, after all.

“Should I just wait and see, or should I keep attacking?” Ryan asked. “With this spawning speed, the attack is just a waste of time, so I guess I will wait. Meanwhile, I will summon golems in case something unexpected happens.”

Although it seemed kind of like a waste, Ryan decided to be patient. After all, even information about weird monsters' weird behavior could come in handy in the future. Given that he couldn't find any monster aside from the Jellyfish in that area, Ryan had another reason to keep an eye on them.

Fortunately, Ryan's patience paid off much sooner than he had imagined. The next day around six in the morning, something weird happened in that lake. All the water started to shine, and after being bathed by that light for a few seconds, the Jellyfish began to fuse with each other. The seven hundred Jellyfish that spawned since the time he began to watch them disappear, and thirty-five bigger monsters could be found in their places.

Elder Jellyfish Lv 125

Health: 5.000/5.000

Mana: 5.000/5.000

Stamina: 5.000 /5.000

Strength: 400 (+150)

Dexterity: 500 (+150)

Speed: 400

Intelligence: 1500 (+350)

Endurance: 500

Control: 400

Mentality: 1500 (+350)

Luck: 900 (+250)

Recovery: 600 (+250)

Willpower: 1500 (+350)

Coins: —

Status:

Skill List

Offensive Physical Skills: Charge Lv 80

Passive Physical Skills: Focus Lv 90, Concentration Lv 90

Spells: Acidic Bullet Lv 130, Acidic Explosion Lv 150, Corrosive Touch Lv 120, Acid Rain Lv 150

Support Skills: Water Resistance Lv 120, Cold Resistance Lv 120, Earth Resistance Lv 120

After checking their statuses, Ryan noticed that they became bosses. To think that monsters could do that' | Regardless, soon after the light disappeared, the monsters jumped into the lake.

“So, they are there, huh,” Ryan smirked.

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After thinking for a while, Ryan noticed that the Jellyfish and the smiles were pretty similar. Although he never saw that, it wouldn't surprise him if the slimes can also absorb each other and become a slime boss.

Putting such thoughts aside, Ryan was planning to explode the lake with his Power Shot. Since the monsters were underwater, it was the only thing he could do. However, he will have to charge for several seconds because he couldn't use Paralyzing Spear. If Ryan uses it, the weapon will definitely break since he was planning to charge his attack for like fifteen minutes.

“I don't have any other choice since things might get messy if too many of them survive, and they use Acid Rain,” Ryan nodded to himself. “I might be able to survive the attack by using Earth Manipulation, but even so, that will completely destroy this whole area.”

It would be too much of a waste to see that place get destroyed. Besides, Ryan wanted to level up Power Shot as much as possible, and there were no better conditions to do that aside from charging the skill for a long time and then hitting several clustered high-level monsters.

“Just you wait, fucking bitch,” Ryan smirked, imagining his attack exploding Lilith to pieces. “The next time I see you, I will make my most powerful attack explode your ass' | why did I say that?”

Ryan shook his head to focus and then started to concentrate. Although the chances of him missing the targets were zero, there is no telling what might happens once the fight starts, so the perfect moment to enter in the battle mode was now.

Ryan started to charge his attack, and as expected, after ten minutes, his crossbow began to lose a lot of durabilities. Ryan used Repair, but in the end, he couldn't help but feel a bit annoyed since he wanted to use his mana to recover as much stamina as possible.

Eventually, even Ryan began to suffer damage when his Power Shot reached the level in which he wanted. There was too much energy infused in a single crossbow, and the energy was starting to dissipate thanks to that' ; unfortunately, it looked like that was Ryan's limit.

“Shit' ; a lot of this power will also be absorbed by the water,” Ryan sighed. “Well, it can't be helped' ;”

When Ryan fired, his body was sent flying backward while spinning at terrific speeds. In the end, he almost passed out since the force of the attack had been insane. Still, he recovered in time to see that lake getting hit and creating a hole in the water for a few moments. After that, a huge cloud of steam flew upward.

You obtained 1900 coins.

You obtained 1900 coins.

You obtained 1900 coins.

' ;

They really were low-level creatures. At best, Ryan will find a tier-two dungeon inside the lake. Regardless, a good part of his attack made the water evaporate, and the impact caused a tsunami that spread the remaining water. Ryan couldn't help but frown since he didn't think his attack had that much firepower. But in the end, everything became clear' ; thousands of those massive beasts were lying at the bottom of the lake, and they had consumed most of the water. What Ryan saw before was just a few meters wide layers of water.

“This is worse than I thought' ;” Ryan frowned.

Ryan had no idea how many he killed with that attack, but many of the Elder Jellyfish were still alive. From a safe distance, he began to fire his poisoned bolts, and he resumed the killing. However, at the same time, the monsters also fired the Acid Bullets toward him' ; somehow, they had the same range as for Ryan.

“You have got to be kidding me,” Ryan said.

Although Ryan could see the projectiles that would and wouldn't hit him, it was the first time that he found a creature that could attack him from one kilometer away. Moreover, they could attack while they moved toward him. Immediately, Ryan sent his army of golems toward the beasts. It seemed like while he stays on the ground level, the bosses won't try to fly high, and his assumptions were correct. Eventually, his five hundred golems intercepted the monsters and slowed them down. However, when the bosses died, their corrosive liquid damaged quite a lot, even the golems.

“I can't use Power Shot'! my golems will get caught in the damage,” Ryan said. “Let's see if those monsters are smarter than the ordinary ones.”

Ryan made poisoned bolts rain down on the bosses until his last golem fell. They lasted only for a couple of minutes, but Ryan killed many times more bosses than golems fell. Even so, he didn't have any other choice but to retreat when Acid Bullets started to rain down around here.

“Let's go, Furball,” Ryan said. “It is time for more kitting.”

While running, Ryan made sure to keep the distance between him and the monsters. Even while running and firing, he was faster, but if he gains some distance, the bosses might get impatient and use Acid Rain. They didn't look like creatures that could show such complicated emotions, but no one could tell.

Ryan ran around the empty lake, hoping that the monsters would keep chasing him like stupid unicellular creatures. They did it for a while, but eventually, they understood what Ryan was planning. The bosses stopped moving and just pointed their bodies upward. As if they were machines that were connected by the same computer, they started to spit acid upwards much faster than any machine-gun.

The inevitable happened, but Ryan made sure to slay dozens of the bosses before the effects of Acid Rain could finally take place. Flying above the attack's range will only make Ryan spend too much mana, so he only created a hole with Earth Manipulation and then disappeared from the bosses' sight. If that plan would work or not, not even Ryan could tell.

The smell of ground and vegetation was getting quite intense even while Ryan and Furball were underground, so he hurried to find the exit. Much faster than he had expected, Ryan and Furball reached the empty lake, and at the center of it, a few kilometers away from their position, they saw the dungeon.

Ryan smirked, but then the smirk disappeared when some acid droplets fell on his shoulders. The massive scope of Acid Rain was quite troublesome'; Ryan and Furball hurried to the dungeon, and even though they tried to be as quiet as possible, the bosses eventually discovered what Ryan was planning. The Acid Rain lost a lot of power, and then Acid Bullets started to be fired toward them.

"Too late for that," Ryan said, and then he entered the dungeon.

Although Ryan used some potions, his stock still was at a pretty decent level. He headed toward the dungeon because he would limit the Jellyfish attacks' range and if they are stupid enough to enter the dungeon'; Ryan will explode them all.

"Go play with the monsters that will spawn," Ryan said to Furball. "Attack them before they attack you'; I guess I didn't have to say something so obvious."

Furball barked and then headed toward the end of the dungeon. Ryan could tell thanks to Radar that the place was empty, so his new partner won't have a lot of trouble completing his mission.

A bit sooner than Ryan had predicted, the bosses showed up, and much to Ryan's disappointment, they really tried to enter the dungeon. Their level of intelligence was really low'; Regardless, Ryan bombarded the monsters with Thunder Arrow and his poisoned bolts. In the blink of an eye, they started to die in the droves. However, there was one problem';

Congratulations! The skill Poison Resistance has leveled up!

When the monsters died, their bodies exploded into acidic liquid everything around it started to melt. The smell was quite intense, to the point where Ryan barely could stop his eyes from spinning.

“I guess breathing toxic gas is another way of getting poisoned’!” Ryan said and then jumped backward to avoid the gas.

Although the smell seemed dangerous, the bosses had become easy prey for Ryan. They looked really desperate for some reason’! as if they wanted to prevent Ryan from using the purple crystal. Regardless, Ryan used that chance to keep attacking them without a care.

Eventually, Ryan was forced to use Wind Manipulation to prevent the dungeon from getting filled by that toxic air. Ryan’s consumption of mana increased, but not to the point where things got complicated. He still had some mana potions stored, after all.

In the end’! that fight had only been mentally tiring because Ryan had to kill the monsters one by one. The fight ended around noon, and after cleaning the dungeon’s air, Ryan permitted himself to lie his back against the dungeon’s wall.

“That was more’! tiring than I expected,” Ryan sighed.

Ryan still had a lot more of tiring things to do, like collect and organizing the loot between the things that he could sell and the things he could use Deconstruction. Although that was also enjoyable’!

“Regardless, to think that I reached a point where I can defeat tier two bosses in a few seconds,” Ryan furrowed his eyebrows. “All that hard work finally paid off.”

There was no mistaking that Ryan had come a long way, but he wasn’t satisfied yet. In any case, instead of thinking about things like that, Ryan hurried to finish that job. Since the monsters were only tier two, they didn’t drop anything worthwhile. In the end, Ryan sold most of the things. However, now he had more than eleven million coins.

“Aside from this fight, the last few days have been kind of slow,” Ryan said. “I guess I should use this chance to learn some useful skill and make it level up.”

The normal choice would be to learn some elemental creation finally, but Ryan wasn’t quite sure if he would be able to implement that to increase his firepower. Even if he could, there was no telling if using

mana to add some elemental property to his attacks would be more efficient than using mana to restore his stamina and thus make his Power Shot be charged for longer.

“Mmm’! maybe I should see if there are some tomes that can teach me how to enchant my weapons with acid,” Ryan nodded to himself while rubbing his chin. “While some skills and weapons have the effect of decreasing status, most of them can’t also cause damage like acid.”

Although they were only tiered two monsters, the Jellyfish caused Ryan a lot of trouble. To the point where Ryan considered learning from them. Besides, if he finds another enemy that causes that kind of skill, things will work better for him since he will have the chance to increase his resistance to those attacks.

“Here is’! Lesser Acidic Enchantment,” Ryan said. “One hundred thousand coins, it isn’t so bad, but’! holy crap, the advanced versions of the skill cost ten times more.”

Ryan could buy Minor Acidic Enchantment and Acidic Enchantment. They cost one million and ten million coins respectively. That was insane’! most likely, if there was some sort of High Acidic Enchantment, it will cost him one hundred million coins.

“There is no way I will spend so many coins in a skill that consumes mana,” Ryan shrugged. “Wait a minute’! what is this?”

Seal Tome

Effect: It grants you the power to seal the defeated foes’ soul in items and grant them special attributes and effects.

Cost: 50 mana

Price: 10.000.000 coins.

Maybe spending so many coins on active skills wasn't a waste of time and coins, but then that tome made Ryan recall that Katelyn had that power, but she didn't say that her skill could do something like that. Did she lie? Why? There was a chance that Ryan brought someone very dangerous to the base'!

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Ryan learned the skill as fast as possible, but instead of testing it to see the limitations of it and confirm if Katelyn lied or not, he decided to alert Mark. With Alissa's help, he will be able to determine if she was a threat or not.

"Ryan? I didn't expect you would call us back?" Mark said after accepting the call. "Did something happen?"

"I just learned a certain skill which made me wonder if Katelyn lied or not to me before," Ryan said. "You should ask Alissa to check things on her."

"Ah'! about that," Mark said. "Katelin explained to me her powers. She also told me that she hid something from you. She confessed to me that it was because she was too embarrassed to say that she lied since you helped her and the kids so much."

"Is that so'!" Ryan frowned. "Well, if you think that she told the truth, then it is fine, but you have any doubt in your mind, you should ask Alissa for help."

"Rest assured, I already confirmed with Alissa what that spell could do," Mark said. "Basically, it grants Katelyn the power to upgrade certain weapons, but she needs the right materials like the spirits of monsters. She obtained a magic weapon, and she upgraded it several times until she lost when she fought a dragon. Katelin herself can't create magic items."

That explained some things'! the doubts inside Ryan's mind vanished. In any case, it looked like he would need other skills to upgrade his magic items, but he could create others with Seal. For some reason, he felt that something was off regarding that information'! Regardless, as long as Ryan defeats some bosses, he will be able to create some magic projectiles that may even surpass his Paralyzing Spear.

After ending the call, Ryan headed toward the end of the dungeon. Since he was already there, it would be a waste not to get a class after all that work. Regardless, alongside the treasure box, Ryan saw Furball licking the liquid that once had been the corpse of a Jellyfish'; it looked like the corrosive effects disappear after a while. By eating and drinking the corpses of ten Jellyfish, Furball could obtain one point in mana. That was nice, even though it wasn't Ryan's current objective for his pet.

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: Templar, Ninja, and Enchanter.

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, those are tier two classes'; Still, for some, I feel like I saw those three options before. In any case, I already have the ninja class, so I only have two options here'!"

While Ryan was interested in the Templar class, that one would help him in any way to increase his powers. It was a melee class, after all. As for the Enchanter class, it looked like an improved version of the Elementalist class. So, Ryan was expecting quite a bit when he chose that.

Congratulations! You have become a Level one Enchanter!

You obtained the following skills: Support, Fire Enchantment, and Ice Enchantment.

Your intelligence and mana will increase by four points, your stamina, health, control, and recovery will increase by two points whenever you level up your class.

Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Support.

Effect: it grants you the power to use buffs in your allies, even the buffs that originally couldn't be used on others.

You obtained 01 status point.

Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Fire Enchantment.

Effect: Increases the power of your attacks by adding the properties of fire. The extra damage caused will be equal to your intelligence multiplied by the amount of time the spell stayed active.

Cost: 30 mana per second

You obtained 01 status point.

Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Ice Enchantment.

Effect: Increases the power of your attacks by adding the properties of ice. The extra damage caused will be equal to your intelligence, and if your intelligence is higher than the targets' mentality, you might freeze them by the amount of time the spell stayed active.

Cost: 30 mana per second

You obtained 01 status point.

The skills were a bit different than Ryan had imagined, but they will be useful. Even more to help Furball obtain a certain level of strength. Although it was a bit weird since those skills would help Ryan make his build more support-like, it wasn't so bad since he could make his monsters stronger.

"It is time to get going, buddy," Ryan said. "Is that even tasty? How can you keep licking it for so long?"

After hearing Ryan's orders, Furball followed him. Maybe he got tired of licking that weird liquid, or perhaps Ryan's orders were really absolute. After they left the dungeon, Ryan couldn't help but sigh! not only was there an empty lake in the middle of a forest, but now the forest was completely destroyed. The monsters really made a mess out of the things.

Although that scene made Ryan a bit depressed, it didn't make him stop from going South for even a second. He had fought by giving his best, and he tried to prevent that. So, his mind was at peace.

“I guess it is time to make you a bit stronger for real, Furball,” Ryan said while patting his head. “We have been traveling without hurrying, but if I had let you eat more along the way, perhaps you could have helped me prevent this. Don’t get carried away. I am not going to wait for you to catch up to me.”

After that, Furball barked. Ryan didn’t know if he had understood or not, but he assumed that he was only reacting to his words. After all, Ryan couldn’t even understand a single thing when Furball barks.

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Although Ryan took his time to kill the monsters he found along the way and barely reached a jogging speed, in the end, he crossed Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama in just a few days. He even gave Furball plenty of time to eat some monsters, but he progressed quite a bit despite that. Aside from the fact that Furball had grown strong and now he is big enough for Ryan to mount him, there was nothing to celebrate. Wherever he went, Ryan didn’t find a single living soul. Destroyed cities, abandoned towns, battlefields where monsters killed each other non-stop; he only found that.

“This is kind of hard to accept, but it looks like humanity has decreased to a few thousand,” Ryan muttered. “At least here, in America.”

Ryan considered that, but in the end, he wanted to avoid that option, but it looks like he will have to check things on the other continents. If things weren’t better there;

“I shouldn’t think about this,” Ryan shook his head. “My only goal is to exterminate as many monsters as possible and grow stronger and then kick the ass of those sons of a bitch.”

Although the desolate world that Ryan could see so often was depressing, not everything was bad news. Ryan learned that Seal was much more useful than he thought. Although the items he could do were based on the quality of the weapon he makes and the skills’ level, they already were at the level of the drops tier two monsters could give him. The only downside was that Ryan could use Seal while the monsters are alive, so he had to beat them down only to a point.

Explosive Arrow (Fire)

Effect: When it hits the target, it causes an explosion in a radius of five meters, causing damage equal to your dexterity + your intelligence multiplied by five.

Freezing Arrow (Ice)

Effect: When it hits the target, it freezes anything around the target in a radius of five meters. The damage caused will be equal to your dexterity + your intelligence multiplied by three.

Those were some of the best results Ryan obtained. Although he couldn't control the effects and buffs his magic items would have, now and then, Ryan would hit the jackpot. Creating expendable projectiles like that sometimes was a pain in the ass, but Ryan had a lot of fun while he was crafting an amulet using Earth Manipulation and Transformation. Maybe ninety-nine percent of the magic items he produces will be useless to him, but they still could be sold. So, there was no downside in keeping leveling up Seal.

“The trick for this will be to seal the soul of a dragon in a weapon,” Ryan nodded to himself. “That will be easier said than done. First, I will have to cut off their limbs and destroy their wings’ while preventing them from dying due to the bleed’”

It was kind of tiring work, but as long as Ryan obtains magic items like his Paralyzing Spear and Frozen Gauntlets, it would be worth the hassle. In any case, Ryan also made a mental note to learn someday the skill that Katelyn has. Creating magic weapons wasn't enough. He had to upgrade them. Just imagining himself upgrading the same arrow again and again to multiply the power of his Power Shot was enough to put a large smile on Ryan's face.

“In any case’ Colombia, huh,” Ryan nodded to himself while looking around. “I finally reached South America, and some countries here are pretty large, so I guess I should pay attention to my surroundings.”

Unlike some movies could make most people think, South America wasn't exactly a big jungle. Sure, there was a lot of green, but there was plenty of civilization, or one day had. Right now, Ryan could only find destroyed roads and burned-down cities. However, after walking for just a couple of minutes, Ryan heard some explosions in the distance and gunshots.

“Gunshots?” Ryan frowned. “There are still people who use those?”

Ryan couldn't understand why some survivors would use guns after such a long time. It was weird. After all, Ryan learned his first spell on the first day, which could cause much more damage than a handgun.

"Let's fly a little and see things from a distance," Ryan said after crossing his arms.

Using Telekinesis, Ryan started to levitate, and after looking at East, he found a small battlefield. Some survivors were fighting against another group of survivors. The first one was protecting a dungeon, while the second was trying to cause some damage by using hit and run tactics.

"Yep, nothing to see here," Ryan shrugged. "Let's keep heading South, Furball. I would rather not get involved with idiots who want to kill each other when our numbers are already too scarce."

Although it was a pity to know that some humans were killing each other, Ryan didn't have to risk his neck to stop those conflicts. Even if he solves them, idiots can easily find other ways to get them killed.

"I need to make another mental note. I need to learn the skill that will let me read minds," Ryan said to himself. "Once that happens, collecting Intel will be much easier."

Although Ryan complained that Alissa did that, it was different. He wouldn't try to read others' minds to know what others think of him and use that to his advantage. He would use it to get some advantage in other aspects.

Ryan headed South and saw that scene repeat a few more times. Apparently, the country survivors were divided into two groups, and they were fighting probably to get more classes and eventually overthrow the other group. At first, Ryan decided to ignore them. However, on one of those battlefields, a green dragon suddenly appeared and started to attack a group that was defending the dungeon. When Ryan used Appraisal, he learned that he was a human who had a dragon spirit.

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Garr

Class: Swordsman Lv 45 / Conjurer Lv 35 / Dark Knight Lv 45

Race: Lesser Dragon /-/-

Rank: 307th

Health: 750 (+ 65.000)

Mana: 900 (+ 65.000)

Stamina: 800 (+ 65.000)

Strength: 500 (+ 5.500)

Dexterity: 300 (+ 5.600)

Speed: 400 (+ 2.200)

Intelligence: 350 (+ 1.500)

Endurance: 500 (+ 4.600)

Control: 200 (+ 3.100)

Mentality: 350 (+ 5.500)

Luck: 100 (+ 3.700)

Recovery: 100 (+ 20.000)

Willpower: 1000 (+ 5.500)

Coins: 55.963

Status: 00

Skill List

Offensive Physical Skills: Wind Slash Lv 150

Passive Physical Skills: Steel Skin Lv 150, Awareness Lv 150

Spells: Tornado Lv 120, Revitalize Lv 50

Support Skills: Fire Resistance Lv 200, Wind Resistance Lv 150, Electric Resistance Lv 150

As if it wasn't enough that the man had the backing of a dragon. He also had an interesting class. It looked like he managed to subdue tier-three dungeons, but unlike Hector, that guy decided to work with some humans.

"Shit! I me and my curiosity," Ryan clicked his tongue.

The moment Ryan used Appraisal, the dragon noticed his presence. To think that the creature would have Awareness' I well, Alissa had many skills, so that wasn't surprising. Ryan just will have to be careful in the future.

Running away from that kind of foe would only cause problems in the long run, so Ryan began to charge a Power Shot. However, much to his surprise, the dragon slowly approached him. In the end, the

monster stopped when it was five hundred meters away from Ryan. He was dead wrong if he thought that he could dodge Ryan's attack at that distance.

"Hello, are you American?" The man asked using Telepathy.

"You used Appraisal and saw my name, huh," Ryan said. "You are correct."

"Oh, it is the first time I see someone from so far away since the monsters appeared," The man said with an excited tone. "Can we talk about the things you found along the way?"

"Sorry, I don't give information for free," Ryan replied.

"I am sure we can trade a lot of Intel," the man said. "I can see you cleared some high-level dungeons, and I believe you want to find more of them, right? I can help you with that, but negotiating is kind of hard when you are charging such a fearsome attack."

"Yes, and I am sure you need that appearance to negotiating," Ryan said.

"You got me there. My name is Lucas," the man said. "Wait for a few minutes, I will tell my friends here to retreat, and then I will come back to talk in my human form. I hope that you will be ready to talk as well."

Lucas retreated, and Ryan considered his options, continuing to charge his attack and kill Lucas in cold blood because he had the spirit of a dragon or play along with him in order to get a new tier, three class. If he chooses the second option, he will have to free his mind from all sorts of violent thoughts because a fight might break out at any moment if he discovers that Ryan wants to kill all dragons.

"What a pain' ;" Ryan sighed. "Starting the fight when the other side made it clear that he wants to talk will cause a lot of problems' ; then again, this might be a trap in order to make me drop my guard. Orgar is different from the other dragons, so there is a chance that this one might be different as well' ; what to do?"

Although it was a dangerous code to live by in such a world, Ryan has no intention of killing a human if the other side doesn't pick a fight first. So, in the end, he decided to cancel Power Shot. However, he put the few explosive arrows that he had on his back. If the worst comes to the worst, he will have to fire them with Telekinesis, but it should cause some damage even against someone who can transform into a dragon.

After a few minutes, Lucas really returned in his human form. He was just a blonde guy that had slightly long hair and green eyes. He also seemed to be around Ryan's age, and he looked pretty friendly with a small smile on his face.

"Sorry for reading your mind before," Lucas said. "But I learned that using such skill comes in handy when finding new survivors when the world is in this kind of state."

"No problem," Ryan said.

"You must be wondering why humans are fighting against humans here," Lucas forced a smile and spoke. "Unfortunately, I don't have a good explanation to give to you. Some people just think that they can do whatever they want just because they obtained some power."

Ryan wasn't really interested in the subject. Regardless, he decided to implement his tactic to counter mind reading. The same thing that he used on Alissa wouldn't work, so Ryan decided to imagine Lucas enduring a session of masochism. That would bother most men. However, Ryan was also suffering a lot of damage by imagining that. In the end, he didn't notice any change in Lucas. However, Ryan couldn't relax since the dragon inside him could use mind-reading and report the things he learned to Lucas later.

"You don't have to explain anything to me. As long as you give the location of the tier three dungeon and permit me to enter, I can answer your questions," Ryan said while looking around.

Ryan was planning to answer, but telling the truth was another matter altogether. Until the very last moment, Ryan was determined not to trust in anyone, much less those who were extremely friendly.

"Sure, it is about time for me to kill the boss of that place together if you want," Lucas said.

"Thank you for your consideration," Ryan said. "You can lead the way then."

Lucas nodded, and then they began to walk toward someplace Northeast of their current position. Ryan wasn't good at hiding his thoughts and feelings, so he decided to be as neutral as possible in order to prevent his actions and words from being analyzed by others.

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Although they had to fly for a while to reach the dungeon, Lucas mentioned, thanks to that, Ryan had the chance to see several camps along the way, and all of them were in front of some sort of dungeon. Ryan used Appraisal to check their classes, but he didn't find anything new.

"Your crossbow looks pretty powerful, Ryan," Lucas said while looking at the weapon full of interest. "Did you get it by clearing a dungeon in which you got one of those powerful classes?"

"No, I obtained this when I killed a dragon that attacked me," Ryan replied.

The secret to lie well was to tell half-truths. Ryan didn't lie, but he also didn't tell Lucas that he obtained the crossbows when he killed someone like him.

Regardless, despite the fact that those guys were trying to kill some humans a few minutes ago, the survivors that fought alongside Lucas greeted him and barely frowned while looking at Ryan. Weirdly enough, they seemed pretty used to visitors.

"By killing a dragon, huh," Lucas said. "You are quite insane; most people would trust to run at first sight instead of fighting."

"I tried, but the monster did not let me escape," Ryan added. "It also looks like you got an interesting skill. Not only can you transform into a dragon, but your status also skyrocketed in that form."

"You probably don't know this, but some people make contracts with dragons to obtain their power and cooperation," Lucas said. "Considering your statuses, it surprises me that none of them tried to negotiate with you."

“Yeah, I don’t think most of them would negotiate with their lunch,” Ryan said.

“Not all dragons are like that, you know,” Lucas said. “They are beings just like us, but since their power is too great, most of them just sees us as insects.”

Things were starting to get weird. If Lucas really were planning something, he wouldn’t tell Ryan those things. Unless he was talking with his dragon and the monster was telling everything that Ryan knew. Come to think of it, Ryan didn’t know the limits of the dragons’ mind-reading skills. Could they read just his mind, or could they access old memories? If the second option was the correct one, Ryan was wasting his time by pretending that he didn’t know certain things.

“Well, there is an exception to every rule,” Ryan said. “Regardless, can you tell me a few things about this dungeon?”

“Sure,” Lucas smiled. “Since the dungeon appeared, my friends and I managed to clear it before the dungeon breaks, so the level of difficulty of the place is reasonable, and it can even be compared to weaker dungeons. However, the monsters are a bit troublesome with their set of skills and nature of their bodies’ † they are ghosts.”

“I can imagine’ † physical attacks don’t work on them, right?” Ryan asked.

“Yes, although your crossbow can probably work on them, I wouldn’t bet too much on the poisonous effect,” Lucas said. “They specialize in cursing their targets and poisoning them as well. Hence, they have high resistance against negative effects such as curse and poison.”

Curses’ † Ryan could imagine how troublesome those could be. It looked kind of scary to be cursed by a ghost, even though it was evident that the negative effect would disappear over time. Ryan had Purification, but the skill was at a low-level since he was a ranged fighter.

“Well, you don’t need to worry too much about it,” Lucas smiled confidently. “I can clear the dungeon by myself just fine, and with your help, I bet it will be a cinch.”

Lucas's behavior made Ryan even more suspicious, but he couldn't feel any malice coming from him weirdly enough. He was either a really nice guy despite the fact that he was fighting against other humans, or he was a maniac who was very good at fooling others with his actions and calm demeanor.

Regardless, Ryan discovered that Lucas camps had at least one thousand survivors thanks to the long trip. Although everyone treated him like the leader, he wasn't the type to give orders often, and people feel comfortable at cracking jokes when he appeared and patted their back. It was truly weird' ;

In any case, after a few hours, they finally reached the dungeon Lucas had mentioned, and it was pretty close to the destroyed capital of the country. Although only six ghosts were spawning every ten minutes, four groups of six survivors were guarding the entrance.

"Hey, guys," Lucas said while waving his hands at the survivors around. "I came today again to do your job."

The survivors laughed when they heard that. While Lucas was greeting his friends, Ryan looked around and saw some workshops where the survivors repaired their gear, some tents in which they used to sleep, and some boxes filled with a strange semi-transparent slimy liquid.

"Those are the bodies of the ghosts. They become like that once they die," Lucas explained. "We call it ectoplasm, and fortunately, we can use it to attack and make monsters suffer from the same negative effects the ghosts can cause."

"Really?" Ryan frowned. "That is convenient."

"At the same time, the liquid can cause negative effects if we touch them recklessly," Lucas said. "It is really unpleasant, but if you want to increase your resistance against it, you will have to endure it."

While Ryan was interested in that, he wouldn't do it while unknown individuals surrounded him. Call him paranoid, but Ryan will never trust someone that easily again. Those who were overly friendly' ; especially those, he will make sure to keep several steps away from them.

“If you have some tracking skills that work in a wide area, I would advise you to keep it active,” Lucas said. “Ghosts can’t leave the dungeon until they reach the entrance, but they can hide in the walls and the ground. To avoid any unpleasant surprises, those skills are absolutely necessary.”

Class: Hunter Lv 63 (+ 02 UP / Elementalist Lv 55 (+ 02 UP)/ Monk Lv 16 (–)

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

Rank: 249th

Health: 834 /834 (3,19/s)

Mana: 1661/1661 (3,19/s)

Stamina: 1296/1296 (3,19/s)

Strength: 31 (+166) (+130)

Dexterity: 1450 (+1095) (+82)

Speed: 85 (+499) (+48)

Intelligence: 81 (+513) (+3)

Endurance: 28 (+131) (+130)

Control: 06 (+521) (+10)

Mentality: 08 (+36) (+30)

Luck: 74 (+15)

Recovery: 700 (+991) (+330)

Willpower: 30 (+36)

Coins: 1.296.588

Status: 00

Skill List

Offensive Physical Skills: Power Shot Lv 81 (+ 04 UP),

Passive Physical Skills: Eagle Eyes Lv 63 (+ 03 UP), Concentration Lv 63 (+ 05 UP), Archery Lv 63 (+ 05 UP), Accuracy Lv 63 (+ 05 UP), Stealth Lv 46 (+ 04 UP), Awareness Lv 11 (+ 10 UP), Support Lv 01

Spells: Summon Warg Lv 21 (+ 20 UP), Seal Lv 01, Fire Enchantment Lv 01, Ice Enchantment Lv 01,

Support Skills: Acid Resistance Lv 11 (+ 10 UP),

Classes:

Combat: Sage Lv 54 (+ 02 UP), Archer Lv 55 (+ 03 UP), Summoner Lv 32 (+ 03 UP), Combat Archer Lv 37 (+ 03 UP), Sorcerer Lv 24 (+ 03 UP), Sniper Lv 29 (+ 04 UP), Weapons Master Lv 09 (+ 03 UP), Sentinel Lv 05 (+ 03 UP), Enchanter Lv 01,

Non-Combatant:

Race: Centaur

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Ryan had a lot of potions on his ring, but he had some on his backpack as well. He didn't expect to find any survivors, but he prepared for that situation, so he still had his backpack. After all, people would find it weird to see someone crossing the continent with the clothes on his body alone and a single monster at his side.

"If you are ready, let's get going," Lucas said. "It is getting late, and I don't like to fight at night."

After saying that, Lucas made a green sword appear out of nowhere. Since it looked like his dragon had the wind attribute, it wasn't that surprising, but if it were him, Ryan would use a fire sword and then boost its power with the dragon's wind magic.

"Pretty cool, huh," Lucas smirked. "Just look at this."

When a ghost left the dungeon, Lucas swung his sword and made the creature explode with a powerful gush of wind when the monster tried to hide underground. As if that wasn't enough, even though the attack had only the purpose of making the monster explode, it created a small crater on the ground. Ghosts were a bit different than Ryan had expected. They didn't have faces or anything human-like. They were just a slimy thing flowing around with their semi-transparent body.

"Pretty cool," Ryan nodded, visibly impressed. "If you can charge more mana in such attacks, such a weapon would come in handy in many situations."

"Hehehe, in fact, I can do that," Lucas stuffed his chest proudly.

"It must be nice to have such a weapon, even while you grow much stronger, as long as it can do that, the weapon will remain useful," Ryan said.

"Well, enough talking, let's finish this," Lucas said.

Although some people frowned when they saw a strange with their leader, none of them did anything suspicious. Ryan confirmed that since kept Radar active since the very moment Lucas mentioned the ability of the ghosts.

In any case, soon after, a new ghost appeared, and this time, Ryan didn't lose the chance to kill the creature and use Appraisal at the same time. As expected, the poison was close to useless against those creatures, but since his weapon had such enchantment effect, he could damage those creatures and make them explode with just a few bolts.

Ghost "" Lv 90

Health: 1.800/1.800

Mana: 1.800/1.800

Stamina: 800/800

Strength: 200 (+ 50)

Dexterity: 300 (+ 200)

Speed: 300 (+ 200)

Intelligence: 850 (+ 150)

Endurance: 150 (+ 50)

Control: 200 (+ 100)

Mentality: 550 (+ 150)

Luck: 100(+ 70)

Recovery: 500 (+ 200)

Willpower: 500 (+ 200)

Coins: —

Status: —

Skill List

Offensive Physical Skills: Cursed Touch Lv 90

Passive Physical Skills: Focus Lv 50, Concentration Lv 50

Spells: Mental Pain Lv 120, Lesser Intangibility Lv 120

Support Skills: Fire Resistance Lv 50, Wind Resistance Lv 50, Cold Resistance Lv 50

You obtained 100 coins.

“You are better than I expected,” Lucas nodded, impressed. “I had barely seen the monster in the darkness when you killed. What eyesight, huh.”

“I am used at fighting at night,” Ryan said.

“Really? I hate to fight at night. Even my shadow scares me,” Lucas showed an awkward smile.

Much to Ryan's surprise, the dungeon led them downwards for quite a bit. At some point, it felt like they were in a spiral staircase since they kept moving to the left side. That being said, Lucas acted as if it was something normal.

"About the boss of this dungeon," Lucas said with a serious expression on his face. "While that thing isn't much study, it is several times more difficult than the normal ghosts. In essence, it was just a mixed version of dozens of them, but you shouldn't lower your guard. I don't at which level your Curse Resistance is, but depending on the level, you might lose your senses if that thing touches."

Ryan was starting to get spooky as well, even though he didn't show that on his face' | facing such an enemy in a confined space seemed like a bad idea, but as long as Ryan used Flash, it should be fine. Or, Ryan could just do his usual thing' |

When they finally reached the last part of the dungeon, Ryan stopped, making Lucas frown. He thought that Ryan got scared, but he changed his mind when he saw him charging Power Shot.

"Do you want to attack from here?" Lucas frowned showing an expression of disbelief. "Is that even possible?"

"I already did that," Ryan replied.

Ryan used Appraisal and confirmed the status of the boss. That creature was just like the other ghosts, a mass of a weird semi-transparent liquid that didn't have a face, limbs, or anything that could make anyone think of that as a living creature.

Lucas found it weird for someone trying to snipe a boss monster inside a dungeon. He never thought of doing that or never heard anyone doing something similar. However, in the end, Ryan managed to kill the boss and clear the dungeon after charging his Power Shot for thirty seconds' |

You obtained 8000 coins.

"Hahahaha," Lucas laughed without holding back. "To think that such a thing is possible' | that is so amazing as it is funny. Well, I doubt that many people would be able to pull that off."

“Sorry, I monopolized the coins,” Ryan said. “It looks like the boss dropped something; you can keep it.”

“Nah, I don’t mind,” Lucas said. “You just gave me a valuable piece of information, after all.”

Once again, Ryan couldn’t help but find it weird that Lucas was too nice. That being said, it didn’t look like he or his friends were in dire need of equipment. Instead of thinking about when he was going to be backstabbed, Ryan decided to assume a more neutral way of thinking. He wasn’t traveling around to make friends, but he could make human enemies left and right by being overly cautious and sometimes unpleasant.

Despite deciding that, Ryan hesitated a little bit in showing his back to Lucas while he selects his next class. Still, since Radar was still active, he wouldn’t get caught off guard.

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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: Death Knight, Demon Hunter, and Corrupted Alchemist.

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.

“I didn’t choose this class before while the Death Knight class interests me. I can’t stand away from the path I choose just because of my curiosity. As long as I focus on my strengths and keep growing stronger, I won’t have to worry about the power of my enemies.”

Regardless, it looked like from that point onward, Ryan will find many classes that are directly related to the classes he already saw before. That made sense, and it was a good sign because survivors would be able to become specialists at certain things like hunting demons or producing potions and crafting weapons. However, Ryan couldn’t deny the fact that currently, at least in America, people needed to focus more on survival since their numbers were already too small.

Congratulations! You have become a Level one Demon Hunter!

You obtained the following skills: Night Hunting, Hunter Specialization, and Corruption Sense.

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: Night Hunting.

Effect: It increases all of your statuses by two points per level when fighting against demons.

You obtained 01 status point.

Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Hunter Specialization.

Effect: It increases the coins obtained when hunting demons by two percent per level when killing demons.

You obtained 01 status point.

Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Corruption Sense

Effect: It grants you the power to sense the corruption caused by the demons in a certain range around you. The range is equal to the level of the skill multiplied by one hundred meters.

You obtained 01 status point.

While the class wasn't that bad, Ryan couldn't help but frown since those were passive skills that only would be useful when hunting demons. Those certainly will help Ryan when he fights against Baal, Lilith, and their army of demons, but defeating them was one of many goals he had.

“Well, whatever’! leveling up this class will be pretty easy once I find a dungeon that spawns demons and hasn’t been cleared yet.”

Since its effects were only useful against demons, Ryan was certain that the class would also level up much faster while hunting demons as well. Otherwise, it wouldn’t make sense for the class to be a tier three-class’! even though Ryan cleared the dungeon without having a hard time.

“Are you ready to leave?” Lucas asked.

“Yeah, let’s get going,” Ryan said.

“I am not going to ask you about your goal,” Lucas said. “But I would like to ask you to stay with us tonight. I have many questions to ask about other countries’ situations since I didn’t have the opportunity to leave this place. I don’t want to leave my friends behind, after all. Nor do I want to leave my country in the hands of monsters.”

“I guess that is fine’!” Ryan said and then sighed. “I owe you at least that much.”

“Great, at times like these, we can’t rush while collecting intel,” Lucas said. “Besides, the days have been more and more tiring, so taking easy now and then is pretty much necessary.”

Although he had the powers to create a decent house with magic alone, Lucas had an ordinary tent like his friends. After the sunset, everyone sat around a bonfire, and they started to pay attention to what Ryan said. Although he asked in detail about the things Ryan saw on his path, he never asked a lot about his country for obvious reasons. Or perhaps he was cautious since it would be suspicious to ask about how vulnerably Ryan’s home country was.

In the end, Ryan decided to talk about almost everything he knew regarding the countries in Central America since he didn’t learn all that much anyway. As for Gonzales and his friends, Ryan kept quiet about them. They more or less helped him, and Ryan didn’t have any intention of putting them in an unfavorable situation by talking about them and their country.

“It looks like the situation is pretty much the same everywhere,” Lucas said. “Still, it is kind of surprising that you would leave your country. You must have your reasons, but it surprises me that someone like you could do that just to search for power.”

“It was necessary. I got my ass kicked several times, after all,” Ryan shrugged. “I can’t rely on luck alone to keep surviving in this crazy situation.”

“That I can understand. Before Garr decided to help me, I suffered a lot,” Lucas nodded. “Anyway, even though there is a certain difference in status, I think the difference in strength isn’t that far apart. Things were that bad in your home country?”

“I believe that we avoided the worst-case scenario,” Ryan said. “However, there are some types of enemies out there that require our attention. Those enemies can even face dragons.”

“Ah’! so you met those guys,” Lucas furrowed his eyebrow. “Garr mentioned some creatures that could give problem even to him, and that was what convinced me to join forces with him. However, I never met them.”

“Well, you have been lucky then,” Ryan said. “I found some of them, and I can say that I barely survived those encounters. Even now, I feel like I can’t properly face them. Besides, just like us, they can keep increasing their strength, so this is a race in which the people from Earth started with a massive disadvantage.”

Lucas nodded at that in silence. Apparently, he heard some things from Garr, but he didn’t expect things could be that bad’! things were going well for him and his friends, but they needed more.

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In the end, Lucas and his friends didn’t say or do anything suspicious, and after a quick breakfast the next morning, Ryan left their camp and headed south.

“I wish you luck on your journey, Ryan,” Lucas waved his right hand. “If you find some of those dungeons, you should return here later and sell me the location of those.”

"I will do that," Ryan said, and then he began to run alongside Furball.

Although he said that, Ryan probably would never come back to talk with Lucas. It wasn't like Ryan thinks that he is always right, but Lucas's predictions were completely off the mark. He was too friendly given the power and influence he had over hundreds of survivors, not to mention his real power since he had a dragons' backing.

"You stayed quiet the whole time, Garr," Lucas said. "I didn't think you were that shy."

"If I don't have a reason to talk, I won't open my mouth. Talking with you is already troublesome enough, and I am tired of troublesome humans such as you and him."

"You really read his mind, huh," Lucas sighed. "You are so helpless!"

"And you are utterly naïve. Although that man didn't lie to you, he didn't say everything he knew."

"Isn't that a given?" Lucas frowned. "I also hid several pieces of information about him, information that would put the people of my country in a tight spot. He probably did the same."

"Maybe, but I can tell that he didn't trust you until the very last moment! ah, he did lie. When he said that he would come back to sell information, he was lying. Just like me, he can't stand goody two shoe idiots like you."

"I would like to think that Ryan isn't that cold," Lucas said. "Still, even though I asked that, we can't leave the country until we stabilize the situation with those guys that betrayed us."

"Just wipe them out already."

"I want to avoid that. I don't want to turn them into my slaves either," Lucas said. "This is getting tired, but eventually, they will understand that we could have killed them a long time ago, and then they will join our side."

“Your naivety someday will kill you’!”

— — —

Ryan hurried to leave Colombia since a good part of the territory was under Lucas’ control, and he didn’t have many chances to fight. Besides, Lucas was also a bit troublesome, so Ryan wanted to forget about him as fast as possible.

“Although a difficult, right, Furball?” Ryan asked. “He isn’t as nearly as annoying as Daniel, but his friendliness gave me goosebumps. In the apocalypse, you can’t be that nice. You can only a normal guy like me or a total asshole.”

Although Ryan was going too far with his commentaries, it didn’t change the fact that he found Lucas’s behavior odd. Regardless, after running for several hours, Ryan eventually reached the next country: Ecuador. That being said, he didn’t find anything in there aside from a destroyed country. As usual, the monsters were running around as if they were the owners of the place while killing each other.

Ryan decided to clean the place a little bit. He found a problem’! he found some golems in there, and his own summoned monsters were weaker in comparison. It was a pity, but Ryan will have to leave them behind and focuses on killing the other creatures.

“Wait a minute’!” Ryan frowned. “Can you eat them, Furball? The golems?”

Ryan didn’t want to make his pet eat plain rock, but he knew that the golems had a core where their mana was stored. He was wondering if Furball could eat. Furball barked, and when Ryan killed a golem, he looked for the pieces of the core and began to ate’! it looked kind of weird since the core was like shattering glass. However, Furball’s endurance increased.

“I guess this is the place in which we are going to transform you into a decent tank, Furball,” Ryan said. “Let’s just hope you won’t get tired of eating the cores.”

Although it had been a troublesome job since the monsters had spread around the country, Ryan killed thousands of them because he truly wanted to make Furball sturdier and because he also needed more

coins. With seventeen million coins, he didn't find the skill Katelyn mentioned on the dungeon shop, so it was obvious that he would need more coins' | or at the very least, Ryan will have to clear more difficult dungeons.

Furball

Health: 325/325

Mana: 552/552

Stamina: 519/419

Strength: 360

Dexterity: 302

Speed: 359

Intelligence: 220

Endurance: 682

Control: 251

Mentality: 250

Luck: 120

Recovery: 400

Willpower: 210

Coins: —

Status: 00

Skill List

Offensive Physical Skills: Bite Lv 35, Scratch Lv 30, Charge Lv 50, Dash Lv 60

Passive Physical Skills: Stone Skin Lv 30, Quick Legs Lv 20

Spells: Meditation Lv 29, Fireball Lv 15

Support Skills: Fire Resistance Lv 25, Cold Resistance Lv 25, Electric Resistance Lv 25, Earth Resistance Lv 25

After helping Furball for five days non-stop, those were the results. Endurance had skyrocketed as expected, but while that was good, Ryan couldn't help but think that his pet was getting too strong too fast. While in games, low-level players can level up much faster than usual when someone high-leveled helped them, Ryan wasn't living a game. It was reality'!

“It looks like you are going to become a fearsome beast even more impressive than I had envisioned,” Ryan said to Furball while he patted his head. “Regardless, it was time to move on. Let's see what we will find on the next country.”

Although it felt like Ryan was progressing too fast, Ryan himself felt like things weren't going as fast as he had planned'! probably because things were pretty boring as of late. Still, complaining about that was dangerous, but knowing his luck, even thinking about that, Ryan considered it dangerous.

It didn't take long for Ryan to find something unusual in Peru. The number of monsters was low, and that had a reason. Some survivors could be found there alongside many gunshots.

Chapter 295

"More people killing each other, huh?" Ryan sighed. "This time, I will make sure to keep my distance to avoid finding more people like Lucas."

Although he said that, Ryan couldn't just ignore those conflicts. Since he was one hundred percent sure the fights would take place near dungeons, he had to check them in order to confirm if there was a tier-three dungeon somewhere. However, when Ryan started to fly using Telekinesis, he already found something weird; some humans were indeed fighting while protecting a dungeon. Still, only one side had guns, and the humans on the other side they looked weird.

Pedro (MADNESS)

Health: 2.000/2.000

Mana: 500/500

Stamina: 2.000/2.000

Strength: 400

Dexterity: 400

Speed: 400

Intelligence: 400

Endurance: 400

Control: 400

Mentality: 400

Luck: 400

Recovery: 400

Willpower: 400

Coins: —

Status: —

Skill List

Offensive Physical Skills: Mad Touch Lv 150

Passive Physical Skills:

Spells:

Support Skills: Fire Resistance Lv 150, Cold Resistance Lv 150, Shock Resistance Lv 150, Earth Resistance Lv 150,

“What the hell’!” Ryan frowned.

Those were some weird statuses' ; it was almost looked like the system recognized those individuals as monsters instead of humans. Ryan didn't like that' ; something happened that gave those people the status 'madness' and also made them unable to gain classes. From far away, those people didn't seem strange, but once he lowered decrease his altitude. He began to hear them scream like creatures that were absolutely in pain. Although it was understandable since the other humans were hitting them with bullets, those attacks were only scratching them' ; they were screaming as if something was tormenting their souls.

"Something smells fishy here' ;" Ryan muttered. "It looks like I won't be able to ignore this situation. I need to understand what transformed those humans."

Ryan used Appraisal and confirmed that on the side of the sane humans, they had the statuses and skills to take the others down, but something was holding them back, and that was why they were using firearms.

"For some reason, they don't want to kill them' ; while I can understand and don't want to kill other humans, things are too complicated to fight with that kind of restriction," Ryan sighed. "Let's try to immobilize them and see if the Purification can do something."

For the first time, Ryan cursed the fact that he didn't have many skills that could affect his foes while not harming them too much. Obviously, he never considered that someday he would fight to defeat an opponent without killing them.

In any case, Ryan approached the battlefield, and when he was close enough, he landed on the ground and then used Earth Manipulation to create holes under those weird people. Ryan felt shivers when he saw their bloodshot red eyes' ; something very messed up had been done to these people.

Thanks to the fact that they only had ten on their side, Ryan managed to seal them on the ground while only letting their heads outside. However, even while they barely could move, they were shaking and making the ground crack.

"You have got to be kidding me," Ryan clicked his tongue in annoyance.

"Hey, what the hell are you doing?"

Ryan ignored a voice coming from behind and then used some mana potions. When his mana was full again, he raised those men and women from the ground while preventing their movements since they were inside some earth spheres. After that, Ryan used Earth Transformation and turned the earth spheres into steel spheres. The prisons finally stopped trembling and cracking'; those creatures were still screaming, but they couldn't do anything aside from that.

When Ryan turned around, he saw a blonde woman pointing a machine-gun toward him alongside her seven friends. As expected, even though Ryan came to help, his actions had been too suspicious.

"Don't bother. That won't work," Ryan said. "I am not an enemy'; I was passing nearby when I noticed your fight and the situation of these people. I guess in a sense. I came to help."

"In a sense?" The blond woman glared at Ryan. "Who are you?"

"Ryan'; though I don't know what if anything will change by telling you that," Ryan frowned. "Anyway, I saw that you didn't want to kill them. Hence, I didn't kill them. They only can't move. Do you know them? What happened here?"

"There are'; they once were our friends," The blond woman said with a complicated expression on her face. "They disappeared in a fight a few days ago'; and now they returned like this';"

"Are you hiding something?" Ryan asked. "Did they disappear, or were they captured?"

"How did you'; know that?" The woman asked with her eyes full of suspicions.

Ryan sighed'; as expected. Demons were probably involved in that. While Ryan was ignoring all those eyes looking at him as if he was more dangerous than those transformed humans, he began to ponder about what happened.

Baal had the power to corrupt living beings. Lilith captured humans for a reason; however, Baal could corrupt those living beings, and the succubus could charm males. Some demon was involved in that incident by the look of things, but those two weren't directly involved.

"One of the other four generals!" Ryan said and then clicked his tongue. "What a time to find a sign of those sons of a bitch."

It looked like Ryan will be able to level up his Demon Hunter class much sooner than he had expected, but he didn't feel like celebrating since he finally saw what those devils could do with humans.

"Answer my question," The blond woman said while furrowing her eyebrows visibly angry.

"There is a dungeon spawning demons around here, right?" Ryan asked. "I fought some demons before, so I can guess what you guys had to endure and what happened to your friends. Anyway, my goal is partially to kill those fuckers, so that means, in a sense, I came to help."

Ryan didn't want to say that he could help her friends because he didn't know if he could. It was better to keep what Purification could do if he fails; that way, everyone will feel less troubled by the possible failure.

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"My name is Lucia! thank you for helping us stop our friends," The blond woman said after calming down her nerves for a few minutes. "You said that you fought demons before. Does that mean you know a way to revert them back to normal?"

"No! I know that some humans got captured by them and that all creatures can get influenced by their powers to a certain extent," Ryan explained. "However, this is the first time I see what happened to the humans who got captured by them."

"Do you have any idea what we can do here?" Lucia asked. "You must have some sort of idea. Otherwise, you wouldn't have helped us."

“You are jumping to conclusions,” Ryan said while frowning. “I came here because I am interested in the subject’ ¦ while I have some ideas, I don’t know if any of them will work.”

“What are those ideas?” Lucia asked.

“Killing the demon that’ ¦ did this to them, or using some spells and items that might nullify negative effects,” Ryan explained. “That being said, I never saw an item or even potion that could neutralize something like this, and as for the spell, I am not betting on it. This far surpasses the level of an ordinary negative effect. I have a spell that I want to try, but I think it won’t help.”

“If you can, just try it. Please,” Lucia said.

Ryan sighed and then approached one of the men who had been infected/brainwashed by the demons. When Ryan touched his head, he felt something weird passing through his hand, and in the next moment, Ryan had some visions for a few seconds. A world of red and black where demons ripped humans apart with their bare hands while they laughed. The vision was so intense that Ryan even felt the scent of blood and heard the scream of those people. When Ryan returned to reality, there was a notification in front of him.

Congratulations! You learned the skill Curse Resistance!

Effect: Decreases the damage and effects of curses by one point per level.

You obtained 01 status point.

“¦ Holy shit’ ¦ this is worse than I imagined,” Ryan said. “You shouldn’t touch them. Whatever happened to them, now they are able to pass the same status negatives to you guys’ ¦ now I can understand what ‘madness’ meant.”

Ryan just touched the man’s head for a second and then used Purification. A light enveloped the man for a moment and then quickly dissipated. Ryan frowned since a similar thing happens when he uses Full-Heal, but the light was supposed to last for a few seconds. Regardless, Ryan didn’t notice any change. Ryan used the spell several more times in the hope of decreasing the effect of the negative

status, but in the end, even after using it for dozens of times, not even a small difference could be seen. The status of man didn't change, and he still was screaming from the depths of his soul.

"It can't be removed by using magic," Ryan said after turning around. "The only option remaining is to kill the demon, but honestly' ;"

"I know," Lucia bit her lips in exasperation. "We somehow' ; knew it when we checked their statuses' ; they are no longer human, right?"

"That is my guess as well," Ryan rubbed his chin thoughtfully. "It is hard to believe, but given that they can apply the same status effects that changed them' ; they are no longer humans. They are demons' ; well, sorry about this."

You obtained 200 coins.

You obtained 200 coins.

You obtained 200 coins.

' ;

After saying that, Ryan manipulated the steel and made a spike pierce their hearts. The creatures stopped screaming, and they eventually became immobile. Lucia and her friends flinched when they saw that. Still, given that Ryan obtained those coins despite not having one, it became even more evidence that he was right.

"He' ; was my cousin," Lucia bit her lips and said while her anger was rising.

"Not anymore," Ryan said. "Your cousin died on the same day he disappeared."

That only put more salt on Lucia's wounds, but in the end, she knew that letting her rage control her right now wouldn't change anything. If anything, she should feel grateful that Ryan dirtied his hands for

them. He didn't like that either, but Ryan wouldn't avoid doing what was necessary. In a sense, letting creatures run around like that was even more dangerous than letting dragons run rampant.

"Do you guys know where I can find their dungeon?" Ryan asked.

" '¡ We will take you there," Lucia declared. "I don't know who you are really, but I know that you will need help to fight all those demons, and I am tired of running away from them."

Ryan sighed. He would rather fight alone in order to minimize the risks and maximize the rewards. Then again, that wasn't his country, and those guys didn't have to obey him. Besides, if they follow him of their own volition, it won't be his fault if they die.

"Lead the way, then," Ryan said. "I just need to give a warning that if any of you guys let the blood rush to your head, I will probably use you as bait for the demons. So, use the rage inside of you guys with moderation."

For obvious reasons, no one likes to hear that with that kind of tone, but in the end, they realized that it was Ryan's style of saying that they shouldn't let their anger and sadness blind their judgment. They weren't completely wrong by thinking that way, but they weren't completely right either. Ryan would definitely use any hot-blooded idiot as bait. To kill as many demons as possible or to escape from them if the necessity arises. Whatever happens, he wasn't feeling like working with suicidal idiots for long. Ryan was determined to see things regarding Earth to the very end, and he will do everything necessary to achieve that.

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In the end, Ryan and the others didn't have to move for long before they could find some demons. That being said, he was quite surprised when he saw them.

Night Demon Lv 135

Health: 759 /1.500

Mana: 1.200/1.200

Stamina: 1.800/1.800

Strength: 500 (-30%)

Dexterity: 500 (-30%)

Speed: 650 (-30%)

Intelligence: 300 (-30%)

Endurance: 800 (-30%)

Control: 500 (-30%)

Mentality: 500 (-30%)

Luck: 350 (-30%)

Recovery: 750 (-30%)

Willpower: 450 (-30%)

Coins: —

Status: —

Skill List

Offensive Physical Skills: Fear Touch Lv 120

Passive Physical Skills: Concentration Lv 80

Spells: Fly Lv 100, Induce Fear Lv 120, Improved Speed Lv 80

Support Skills: Fire Resistance Lv 100, Shock Resistance Lv 100, Cold Resistance Lv 100, Earth Resistance Lv 100

“Well, well’!” Ryan said. “Look at what we have here’!”

Ryan finally found another creature in which he had their blood. While that didn’t make him feel anything, the fact that the monsters were suffering damage and their status had decreased thanks to the sunlight was something that he welcomed.

Night Demons were creatures that had blue skin. Their wings were quite dragon-like but obviously much smaller. That being said, their most eye-catching features were their short horns near their ears and their red eyes.

“You guys are so lucky’! how come you did let them multiply by this much?” Ryan asked. “I wish I had the luck to find such stupid creatures sooner.”

“While they are insane to fight in their weakened state, it doesn’t mean that they are weak,” Lucia explained. “They can make anyone lose the will to fight in a matter of seconds with Induce Fear.”

“Then, just attack from a distance,” Ryan said.

“That is easier said than done,” Lucia said.

Ryan checked Lucia and her friend's status once more and confirmed that they only had melee classes. Although that had been a stupid choice, it was the best option to increase one's survivability. So, Ryan couldn't complain.

"Besides, they are many times more fearsome at night," Lucia said.

Ryan knew that, now and then, he could make good use of his Night Demon's blood due to that. In fact, he was hoping to use it right now since just hunting the monsters only during the day would be too much of a pain.

"Where is the dungeon?" Ryan asked. "There are only a few hundreds of them here."

"A few hundreds?" Lucia frowned. "What do you mean a few? This is an entire battalion of those freaks'! Regardless, their dungeon is near our capital. We still have a long way to go, and we will have to kill a lot of them until we reach there."

"I couldn't have asked for more," Ryan said. "Anyway, this will sound crazy, but you guys will work as bait for me."

"What?" Lucian opened her eyes widely.

"Forget what I said earlier. You will do that because it is the best option right now," Ryan said. "In exchange, I will let you get all the loot. Until at least you guys obtain some decent gear. I can kill them in a single strike, but to kill all of them before they can use their spells on us, I will have to stay still and only focus on attacking them. You guys will draw their attention and stop them if they get too close, but they probably won't with those statuses."

The frown didn't disappear from Lucia's face. Although her friends couldn't understand English, they had a good idea of Ryan's plans based on her face. Thanks to it, they hesitated since they didn't know if Ryan was that reliable in combat. Without any other choice, Ryan had to start the fight and use it as a demonstration.

Ryan suddenly left the Bush he and the others were using to hide and the start to fire his bolts. When the demons finally noticed his presence, twenty of them had already fallen. Just as he had said, each one of them died after getting by a single bolt.

“Haaaaaaaaaaaaarrrrrrrrggggggghhhh.”

The demons scream in sheer hatred while they flew toward Ryan. Although that surprised him a little, it didn't slow him down. Thanks to the rage, the monsters flew fast enough to get in the range of their spells, but also, due to their rage, they never tried to use it. For some reason, they wanted to rip Ryan apart with their bare hands while he was conscious.

“... Let's go,” Lucia said after she recovered from the shock. “He is insane, but he has the skills to back his insanity.”

Following Lucia's lead, the other survivors formed a wall in front of Ryan and when they had to, they used the few long-range attacks that they had, but in the end, they barely had the chance to do anything. Also, even when they attack the demons, the creatures completely ignore them.

“... I never saw them get this mad,” Lucia frowned. “It almost looked like they knew you, and you were the man who killed their parents.”

It was also the first time Ryan faced creatures that were enraged. The first thing he thought was that the demons had put him on their blacklist. However, Baal and Lilith wouldn't do that. Instead of letting their minions do the hard work for them, they seemed the type who would hunt down anyone who gets on the way.

In the end, Ryan concluded that it was due to his Night demon's blood and because of his Demon Hunter class. Upon noticing that someone who had their blood was hunting them like that, the demons became enraged. While that had been useful, Ryan couldn't help but worry for how long that would be useful.

“It is hard to explain why the monsters are acting like this, but if you guys want to make the most of the situation, you will have to learn some ranged attacks since the monsters will focus only on me,” Ryan said. “Is there a dungeon nearby in which you guys can buy some tomes?”

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Although Lucia and her friends couldn't become mages or archers in just a few hours, their skills could level up faster. Eventually, even spells that cost five thousand coins might become useful enough even in the hands of someone who has a warrior build.

With that in mind, Ryan took Lucia and the others to the nearest dungeon. The place was spawning Giant Ants, but the demons hunted them down to a point where Ryan and the others only found those who were leaving the dungeon at that moment.

"Did you guys clear this dungeon?" Ryan asked. "Which class did you get here?"

"Monk, Sage, and hunter," Lucia readily replied.

Ryan sighed; his luck wasn't good. He already had those three classes' | Still, at that point in time, a single tier-one class won't help him all that much.

"I won't force you to choose that, but earth spells will help us a lot," Ryan said. "Not only will they cause some damage and a lot of pain, but they also have more weight than the other types of spells so that the demons will be slowed down even more."

Lucia nodded at that, so even though it was a bit expensive, she and her friends bought the spell Earth Punch. It was kind of a weird spell, but it would be perfect for their purpose, and besides, they couldn't be stingy since they obtained the coins they used by helping Ryan.

While Ryan wanted to continue, it was getting late, and he couldn't risk the lives of some strangers while fighting against enraged creatures at night, even more so when those creatures had the advantage. So, he decided to have a good night's rest since it had been a while, and he was expecting a thought fight in the next few days. Meanwhile, Lucia and their friends trained while killing giant ants. They also used the coins to create a stock of potions.

"Maybe I can increase their magic power a little bit. Let's create some rings and try to seal the souls of the demons in it."

It would be a pain to put the demons to sleep without killing them, but it would be worth the hassle since Ryan knew that he would have quite the ordeal ahead of him. So, that would be less like a hassle and more like an investment.

When morning came, the demons appeared with their health almost full, but their health began to decrease with the passage of time. While holding back a little, Ryan cut off the limbs and the wings of several of them. That made Lucia and her friends feel shiver since that was the exact behavior of the demons, but in the end, they learned that Ryan didn't do that for the fun of it.

Anti-Curse Ring

Effect: Increases the level of your Curse Resistance by two points.

Intelligence + 20

“Not bad, now I just have to make several dozens of them,” Ryan said and then forced a smile. “Piece of cake.”

Ryan learned recently that he could control to a certain extent the bonus in attributes the items he created could give him. Items like rings most of the time increase intelligence and mentality. Weapons like daggers increase speed and bows increase dexterity, and so on.

“This is a loan. It will probably help you while using magic,” Ryan said while he was passing the ring to the survivors. “If you like this, I can sell each for five thousand coins. It isn't up for negotiation.”

Given the bonuses in status alone, they already knew that the rings were worth at least that much. However, when they used Earth Punch, the demons suddenly stopped their charge and started to groan in midair; the numbers were impressive, but the reality was even more shocking.

Although Lucia and the others missed one and then, the night demons still got their ass kicked thanks to the combo survivors plus Ryan. Sometimes, they even killed some demons without Ryan's help, and that was something since the monsters were that powerful, and none of the survivors were real mages.

In any case, thanks to them, Ryan managed to keep advancing toward the demons' dungeon at a fearsome speed. In just a single day, they killed fifteen thousand demons and also ran one hundred kilometers. The only downside was that Furball didn't have much time to eat, and the demon's bodies increased his health, so it seemed like a real waste.

"It is getting late," Ryan is there a dungeon nearby in which we can use?"

"Do you want to stop?" Lucia frowned. "We still can keep fighting, and the power of attacks has been increasing, so the more we fight, the more useful we will be."

"... What I said about rushing ahead without thinking?" Ryan sighed. "Fighting at night is more difficult than you think. Besides, your accuracy sucks even with sunlight on our side. If people like you try to fight at night, we will only waste time and tire ourselves out without making much progress."

"... There is a dungeon nearby, but we didn't clear that one yet," Lucia said, visibly annoyed.

"Knowing the demons, we will only have to defeat a few monsters of such a dungeon," Ryan said. "Hopefully, I will get a new class, and you guys will be able to get a mage class and properly level up since you are only using magic."

Although Lucia was eager to keep exterminating demons, she eventually understood that a mage class was something that they needed. They have been only focusing on surviving since the arrival of the monsters. Perhaps it was a good idea to change their ways and focus on something riskier and, at the same time, necessary. It was time to counterattack. While some motivation was a great tool, Ryan couldn't help but think that things might get complicated at some point. While Ryan was only doing his job, as usual, Lucia and her friends were too involved in the matter, and that might cause some issues.

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"WHAT THE HELL!" Ryan shouted in anger. "ARE YOU FUCKING KIDDING ME?"

Lucia and the others flinched and trembled when they saw the calm Ryan angry. Although he had a good reason to be angry, they thought he was going too far' | Regardless, the second dungeon they decided to use as a temporary base was spawning pterodactyls. However, once again, the classes that

Ryan could obtain were classes that he already had. To something like that to happen to times in a row was unnerving, to say the least. In any case, Lucia and her friends obtained the Elementalist class and proceeded to level up.

“... it can't be helped. What is done is done,” Ryan said after a long sigh that calmed his nerves. “It is a pity, but it can't be helped.”

“It looks like you don't have a heart of stone even though you act like that all the time,” Lucia said. “Still, only someone very self-centered would only show anger when something happens to them.”

“You don't know me enough to say that,” Ryan said. “Maybe you don't know, but many people died in the last months. Death became a common occurrence. If I had left the death if strangers bother me all that much, I would have died a long time due to worry and fear.”

“So, things aren't good outside this country either,” Lucia said and then sighed. “What the hell are we fighting for here? Why are we struggling so much when the enemies seem endless?”

“Because we don't want to die seems like a good enough reason for me,” Ryan said. “Even if the fight seems endless, as long as we win, we will buy the right to live in this new world.”

“So, all this hard work just to survive?” Lucia asked. “Until when can someone endure that while their allies die one after the other?”

“Until your spirit crumbles away,” Ryan replied. “If you are not satisfied with that, there is always the easy way out: give up and become monster's food.”

“I take back what I said. You really have a stone heart,” Lucia said. “Still, that makes me wonder why you decided to help us.”

“I already told you, it was out of curiosity,” Ryan explained. “I have a story with the demons, so I want to cause them problems as much as possible before I send their stink asses to the beyond.”

That way of thinking might cause some problems to Ryan down the road, but in the end, just ignoring the demons would be insanity. With their spawning speed and with the dungeon breaks, and also considering that there two other dungeons spawning those fuckers. It was evident that demons outnumbered humans. Moreover, their strength was higher than most survivors.

“Anyway, you should keep practicing your magic skills while you can,” Ryan said. “I am going to hunt for a while to cool my head.”

“You sure have a strange way to cool your head,” Lucia laughed.

Ryan ignored that comment and left the dungeon. Although it was dangerous to hunt at night since the demons had increased their perimeter, as long as Ryan is careful, he was certain that he wouldn't find some bosses lurking around. In the end, Ryan had to use three seconds of concentrated Power Shot to kill every single demon he found, but at least he managed to avoid their sight by flying high in the sky.

Around noon of the next day, Ryan noticed that the number of encounters had increased exponentially. However, he and the others didn't find a single boss. That was weird; although he knew that they were more rational than most demons, for the sake of expanding their territory, all the bosses Ryan faced that belonged to the demons' army would accept some risks.

“How long until we reach your capital?” Ryan asked.

“Fifty kilometers, I guess,” Lucia said. “Is there something bothering you?”

“Yeah; I want to get rid of some of their bosses before getting closer to the capital, but it looks like that won't be possible. So, we will move around the capital while slaying more demons. However, we will need a shelter to stay at night. Is there a dungeon close to the capital we can use?”

“Unfortunately, no,” Lucia replied.

Ryan sighed. The number of dungeons in Peru was small. It seemed; his luck wasn't good. It couldn't be helped, but Ryan and the others will have to sacrifice some hours of daylight to go to the battlefield and return to the dungeon in which they previously used.

Even though the Demon Hunter class was leveling up really fast and his powers to slay demons were getting stronger, Ryan had no intention of looking down on those beasts. All the areas in which Ryan found them had been dominated by them for a reason, after all.

“You don’t have to worry about our safety,” Lucia said. “We can keep fighting even if the situation becomes really troublesome. In the end, as long as our country is free from those demons, we won’t mind making some sacrifices.”

“I am more worried about myself, really,” Ryan said. “I don’t want to repeat my mistakes, so that is why I am careful here. Anyway, you don’t have to follow my commands, if you want to keep fighting demons without regarding your safety, then you can go on, but then we will not work together anymore. As I said, I don’t want to work with hot-blooded suicidal idiots.”

“ ‘| You really like to say that kind of thing, huh,” Lucia said after a deep breath. “No wonder you work alone.”

“Not really,” Ryan shrugged and then said confidently. “Furball is watching my back.”

Lucia couldn’t understand how come Ryan could say that with a straight face. It was probably due to the fact that she fought alongside her friends for three months where every single die, they could have lost their minds at the hands of monsters. Hence, she would never be able to trust a monster to watch her back.

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In the end, Lucia and the others decided to stick around with Ryan because even though they worked together by using Earth Punches, they couldn’t slay demons as fast as Ryan. That being said, it wasn’t like he was invincible. To show his true power, Ryan needed certain conditions like attack without moving or having a vantage point where he could see all the enemies and the terrain ahead. So, even though Ryan was harsh with his words, Lucia recognized that working with him would help her group and Ryan himself.

“You created those rings, right?” Lucia asked. “Can’t you create more crossbows like yours for us? We will be able to help more with such weapons.”

“You are really naïve! even if I could create crossbows like these, which I can’t, it wouldn’t help you guys all that much since your dexterity is low,” Ryan explained.

“So, it relies on mana and dexterity to have all that firing power?” Lucia looked to the side and began to think about something. “What if you create a weapon that fires magic projectiles? Like a pistol? It won’t have to rely on dexterity and mana, right?”

“Yeah! it will rely only on mana,” Ryan frowned while wondering about Lucia’s knowledge. “How do you know that?”

“I am not much versatile like you, but I can create projectiles made of steel,” Lucia said. “That is why for a while, we kept using firearms. I made some adaptations, and thus I became someone who could create an infinite number of bullets, but such skill became useless after a while.”

“I wondered why you guys had firearms after all this time!” Ryan said. “Regardless, while I think that creating something like that might be possible, I never tried before, so I can’t guarantee the performance.”

“That is fine. As long as we are able to use Earth Punch or other projectiles with a certain level of power, it will be good enough,” Lucia said.

Ryan couldn’t understand that reasoning. Relying on that kind of weapon probably won’t let them level up as many skills as possible. Ryan had no intention of changing his bow and crossbow for a magic pistol or something, but in the end, learning how to produce that might help him. It will probably become a good source of income.

Although that had been his first time, Ryan managed to create a pretty interesting hand cannon made of steel. However, for some reason, he couldn’t see the status of the weapon! probably because it didn’t have a projectile. Regardless, after beating the crap out of a pterodactyl, Ryan used Seal on the creature and put its soul in the hand cannon.

Wind Hand Cannon.

Effect: It grants you the power to fire Wind Spheres Lv 10.

Dexterity + 10, Intelligence + 10

Cost: 15 mana

“It somehow worked’!” Ryan frowned while seeing that the steel was emitting a green glow. “I didn’t think pterodactyls had any elemental attributes, but since they can fly, I guess it makes sense that this would happen.”

Ryan passed the gun to Lucia, and she opened her eyes widely when she saw the status of the weapon. It was no surprise; Ryan just created an item that could easily cost ten thousand coins.

“Although I asked for this’! I wasn’t expecting much, but this surprised me,” Lucia frowned. “Still, why the wind element.”

“All skills have limitations. That is all you need to know,” Ryan shrugged. “Try to fire it. We need to make some tests.”

Lucia nodded and nonchalantly pulled the trigger while aiming at the wall in front of her. Although she was expecting some damage to be caused, she didn’t imagine that the Wind Sphere would take the area around them tremble with the impact.

“Let me use it now,” Ryan said.

When Ryan pulled the trigger, the Wind Sphere made a crack on not only the wall but also made a good part of the dungeon tremble. In the end, it looked like their ideas were a bit off the mark.

“It looks like even weapons like this rely on dexterity to cause some damage,” Ryan said. “My intelligence is only two times higher than yours, so that doesn’t explain all this damage.”

“Well, it is fine,” Lucia took back the gun. “Even though it isn’t an earth projectile, it will stop the monsters from getting too close. For how much are you going to sell it?”

“It looks like someone is learning fast how the world works,” Ryan smiled. “Ten thousand coins for each.”

“That is a deal then,” Lucia said. “Also, this isn’t how the world works. It is just that you are easy to read.”

“Right, right,” Ryan shrugged.

While Ryan was creating more of those hand cannons, he imagined how fearsome it would be to create them while using the Jellyfish souls. Stopping them without killing would be a real hassle, but totally worth it. In the end, Ryan created two hand cannons for each survivor. Since the weapons could be easily held with a single hand, there was no reason to sell them only one.

The next day, Ryan confirmed how fearsome those hand cannons were. As long as they had mana, Lucia and her friends could completely stop the demons in midair. Although there was no denying that the weakened state of the demons was playing an important factor in that, it was also obvious that they weren’t magicians or archers. Their intelligence and dexterity weren’t their forte.

In any case, with that kind of knowledge, Ryan would be able to turn even humans with few classes into a fearsome army. The only real problems regarding that were the Ryan barely worked with others, and he wouldn’t give the weapons for free. It was only natural that he would profit from the skill in which he spent ten million coins to learn. Even if Ryan doesn’t find some buyers, he can always sell the magic items that he creates in the dungeon shop. There was no real downside in keep creating those magic items.