

Domain 301

Chapter 301

The hunting speed increased considerably thanks to the magic weapons Ryan created. However, the fact that the demons didn't begin their retreat bothered him just as much as the fact that the bosses were taking their time to show up. Still, in the end, Ryan didn't let those doubts make him hesitate. He slew the monsters as fast as possible.

"When you guys fought against the demons, you saw some of the bosses?" Ryan asked.

"Only one!" Lucia replied while showing a look of anger on her face. "It was the demon that captured our allies."

Putting such worries aside, Ryan resumed his task of hunting demons. However, their momentum came to a stop due to some changes in the demon's actions. While they didn't retreat to their dungeon, they stopped exposing themselves in the middle of the day. They started to hide in the shadows of some trees, rocks, and everything that could protect them from sunlight. However, the vast majority began to hide underground.

"They are starting to get on my nerves!" Lucia said impatiently. "Much more than before! why don't we just hunt them down like before?"

"We can, but our pace will be slower," Ryan replied. "Explain to me how come you managed to survive this far being so impatient? As you can see, humans don't have the advantage in this war, so we can only win by using our heads and being patient."

It looked like Ryan will have to say goodbye to Lucia and her friends much sooner than he had imagined. It was a pity since they really helped him, but in the end, it was unavoidable since they looked like bloodthirsty wolves that couldn't think of anything else aside from their prey.

"Although you feel like we are wasting time, we aren't," Ryan said, pointing toward the end of the dungeon. "You are not blind, so you can see that while the demons stall for time, we are also preparing for the final fight."

“Yeah, but’ only you are doing something,” Lucia sighed and then said while looking at the army of golems Ryan has been raising since they have been taking shelter inside a dungeon. “If we win this fight, we won’t be able to feel proud and say that we recovered our country.”

“Why? No one is going to stop you from doing that,” Ryan said. “I certainly won’t claim that I did all the work by myself. In fact, I won’t tell anyone that I did anything here.”

What would be the point of saying that? Ryan couldn’t think of anything that he might gain by revealing to others about his actions, aside from the coins he could obtain from Mark by selling information. Still, he didn’t have to give so many details about it.

“You think that we are that low?” Lucia frowned.

“Just be patient. As far as we are concerned, the demons aren’t going anywhere,” Ryan said. “We still have a little more than a week before the next dungeon break, so we don’t have to hurry.”

Ryan was also patient because he wanted to level up his Corruption Sense. That skill worked against all types of demons, even though their type of corruption was different from each other. For example, Lilith’s corruption could make every man become her loyal minions by using the power of humans’ lust. At least that was what Ryan concluded. He couldn’t quite pinpoint if Baal used or need a strong emotion like that to make humans his minions. As for the current demons he was facing, based on the things he saw when he tried to heal one of Lucia’s friends, Ryan concluded that the demonic general involved used the power of fear or wrath. That scene made Ryan felt fear, but it was the scene of a battlefield, after all.

Regardless, by making Corruption Sense level up, Ryan will be able to find the bosses with more ease before they find him. Still, given the number of demons he killed, he was starting to think that the Demon Hunter’s skills were leveling up to slowly.

“I guess the duration of the fight is also important as the strength of the monster’” Ryan muttered. “The stronger the monster and the longer the fight lasts, the faster skills and classes can level up.”

It was a pretty hardcore system since it meant the users had to put themselves at risk pretty much constantly. Regardless, on the morning of the next day, Ryan counted that he had twenty-five hundred

golems under his command. When things get dire, they will help him a lot. Unfortunately, the dungeon was already full, so Ryan will have to slow their summoning speed and hide them underground.

“Since you guys are too impatient, I guess we will have to take some risks today,” Ryan declared. “You have more or less enough power to fight the demons, so I will let you fight them as much as you want while I will offer some air support.”

“You can fly, but doesn’t that consume a lot of mana?” Lucia asked. “You won’t be able to attack as much as before.”

“It can’t be helped,” Ryan said and then shrugged. “Since you guys are such bloodthirsty idiots, I have to compromise here.”

“¡ Sorry about that,” Lucia said. “I guess we are getting carried away with our wish for revenge.”

“No need to apologize,” Ryan said. “Besides, I am using you guys to confirm something. I am worried that the demons are hiding underground because they want to focus on attention down there while they do something else while flying.”

“You do have a point’¡” Lucia nodded. “Now that I think about it, it is weird that they gave up on their advantage like that.”

“If you realized that, then perhaps you are not a lost cause,” Ryan said. “Anyway, I will use my tracking skills to find the places in which they are hiding. If their numbers are too high in certain places, I will attack first. If the numbers are too small, I will point to their location and leave the rest of the job to you.”

Class: Hunter Lv 65 (+ 02 UP / Elementalist Lv 55 / Monk Lv 16 (–))

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

Rank: 241th

Health: 899/899 (3,19/s)

Mana: 1751/1760 (3,19/s)

Stamina: 1431 /1431 (3,19/s)

Strength: 31 (+166) (+130)

Dexterity: 1470 (+1221) (+82)

Speed: 85 (+544) (+48)

Intelligence: 81 (+513) (+3)

Endurance: 28 (+131) (+130)

Control: 06 (+564) (+10)

Mentality: 08 (+36) (+30)

Luck: 74 (+15)

Recovery: 700 (+991) (+330)

Willpower: 30 (+36)

Coins: 4.545.974

Status: 00

Skill List

Offensive Physical Skills:

Passive Physical Skills: Heroic Archery Lv 16 (+ 04 UP), Awareness Lv 15 (+ 04 UP), Support Lv 01, Night Hunting Lv 12, Hunter Specialization Lv 12, Corruption Sense Lv 12,

Spells: Summon Warg Lv 21, Seal Lv 17 (+ 16 UP), Fire Enchantment Lv 01, Ice Enchantment Lv 01,

Support Skills: Curse Resistance Lv 01,

Classes:

Combat: Beastmaster Lv 30 (+ 03 UP), Archer Lv 58 (+ 03 UP), Combat Archer Lv 40 (+ 03 UP), Sniper Lv 33 (+ 04 UP), Weapons Master Lv 13 (+ 04 UP), Demon Hunter Lv 12 (+ 11 UP)

Non-Combatant: Blacksmith Lv 22 (+ 01 UP),

Race: Centaur

Chapter 302

As soon as Ryan and the others reached the area where he could sense some demons, Ryan began to fly in the sky. However, before he could pinpoint the demons' location to Lucia and the others, something unexpected happens. Hundreds'! no, thousands of demons left their hideout underground. At the same time, many more demons appeared in the distance, flying toward them.

"I knew it was a trap'!" Ryan said and then sighed. "RETREAT!"

Lucia and her friends immediately understood that they had fallen into a trap, but they only woke up from the shock when Ryan shouted and began to attack the demons. While retreating, they began to attack the demons, but their accuracy wasn't that good while they run.

"Furball, go help them," Ryan said. "Stop any demon that gets too close to them."

Furball's status was high enough to face the night demons in a solo fight. While killing them was something he could only do after several seconds of the fight, he could immobilize them with ease.

This time some demons focused on Lucia's group, but the vast majority still flew toward Ryan. While that was a bit worrisome, Ryan had already planned for that kind of situation. His golems were on his way for the final fight, and Ryan also had some countermeasures with him.

Using Telekinesis, Ryan fired his explosive arrows toward the demons, and the explosions slowed down hundreds of demons while dozens of them died in the blink of an eye. It was a pity Ryan could only obtain a few of those arrows everyday' ;

You obtained 125 coins.

You obtained 125 coins.

You obtained 125 coins.

' ;

Since he couldn't use those arrows forever, Ryan started to attack using his crossbow. However, the number of monsters wasn't decreasing' ; even though dozens of them were dying every minute. Ryan had to increase his attack speed even further. Fortunately, he did have the right skill for that, even better, against so many enemies, he didn't have to aim' ; only pull the trigger was enough.

Ryan activated Rapid Shot, and his firing speed increased five times. The consumption of mana skyrocketed, but his killing speed also improved drastically. At that pace, they would reach the golem's army' ; as if Ryan had raised his own death flag, he felt a shiver, and when he turned around, Ryan saw

hundreds of massive Magma Spheres heading toward him. He used Flash several times to escape them, but the heat caused by those melted even the demons that were just a bit close to the attacks. Ryan also felt the heat and clenched his teeth in annoyance while his health decreased. After using Heal a single time, he recovered and then saw those creatures in the distance' ;

Magma Demon Lv 165

Health: 12.000 /12.000

Mana: 7.500/7.500

Stamina: 9.000/9.000

Strength: 1200 (+360)

Dexterity: 900 (+200)

Speed: 900 (+300)

Intelligence: 1000 (+260)

Endurance: 1000 (+400)

Control: 500 (+100)

Mentality: 900 (+300)

Luck: 500 (+200)

Recovery: 1500 (+400)

Willpower: 900 (+300)

Coins: —

Status: —

Skill List

Offensive Physical Skills: Concentrated Strike Lv 120

Passive Physical Skills: Fiery Aura Lv 120

Spells: Magma Sphere Lv 150, Magma Charge Lv 120, Explosive Impact Lv 80

Support Skills: Fire Resistance Lv 250, Shock Resistance Lv 100, Cold Resistance Lv 50, Earth Resistance Lv 100

“What the hell’!” Ryan opened his eyes widely when he saw those statuses. “Why is their level so high?”

There was no mistaking. Those Magma Demons were the bosses that the dungeon of that region was spawning. Although it was weird that they didn’t have proper names and were mob monsters, that was something Ryan could worry about later. Those creatures were too strong, and Ryan could see more than two hundred of them flying toward him while firing Magma Spheres.

“Pick up the pace!” Ryan shouted again.

“What is happening?” Lucia asked.

“The bosses finally showed up, and I believe we are not ready to face them,” Ryan said.

“All of them?” Lucia asked in shock.

Ryan nodded, and Lucia’s face lost all her color. She recalled how much they struggled against a single boss and still lost. In the end, some of their allies had to stay behind to stall for time, only to become puppets of the demons. Retreating again and again’ ; she felt so pathetic that she even considered a suicidal charge. Dying while killing many of the demons seemed much better than keep running forever.

Although Ryan said to run, Lucia and the others couldn’t get out-speed the magma demons. It was only a matter of time before they get caught’ ; Ryan definitely wouldn’t stay behind and sacrifice himself for them, but he didn’t give up yet. He still had some ideas on his head.

To slow down the magma demons, Ryan grabbed his shield and put it in front of him while he killed the night demons with his crossbow. Each Magma Sphere that hit his shield made the weapon lose a lot of durability, but at the same time, the magma demons suffered some damage thanks to the effect of the shield. He managed to slow them down, but it was only a matter of time before his shield breaks. Without any other choice, Ryan jumped on Furball’s back. Flying, using Telekinesis to move his shield, attack, and use potions at the same time was too much for him. So, he decided to decrease his workload.

“Sorry, buddy,” Ryan said. “You will have to help me with this.”

Furball barked, and then Ryan began to use his mana to repair his shield. Now that he wasn’t flying anymore, the Magma Spheres’ accuracy increased a lot. Thanks to it, even though Ryan blocked most of them and the others passed at a certain distance, Lucia and the others began to suffer some damage.

“Damn, how can their attack be this hot?” Lucia asked while clenching her teeth.

Ryan was doing his best to block the attacks and use his crossbow at the same time. However, he still couldn’t see them survive that situation’ ; he would need to do something more’ ;

Chapter 303

Ryan couldn't see many things that he could do to change the tide of the battle; only one, but it was something very reckless. In the end, Ryan made his mind. He put his crossbow away and focused on blocking the Magma Spheres, but when his shield got bit by them, Ryan concentrated on the heat of their attacks to obtain control over the magic projectile. A lot of mana were consumed to do that, but in the end, Ryan managed to do it. However, it wasn't enough.

"I guess this is the power of elemental manipulations and transformations!" Ryan said while he watched a Magma Sphere as big as him floating around them, and despite that, the attack wasn't emitting heat. "Let's see if I can do more than this!"

Ryan ignored most of the projectiles, but those that hit his shield right in the middle, he made sure to use his magic on them to obtain control over it. Ryan's stock of mana potions was quickly decreasing, but in the end, by mixing several Magma Spheres, he now had control over a Magma Sphere that was the size of a dragon.

"What the hell!" Lucia opened her eyes widely. "How did you!"

"No time to explain," Rya said. "Prepare to fight because the magma demons are getting closer, and this won't stop them."

It was only obvious that magma demons wouldn't be stopped by magma. Regardless, Lucia and the others prepared themselves while Ryan was concentrating. Thousands of demons were flying toward them, so he had to, at the very least, get rid of all small fries. Unfortunately, he couldn't do that. Controlling something that big required a lot of focus and mana, so Ryan would have to improvise.

In the end, Ryan just fired the massive Magma Sphere toward the night demons. However, the attack was slow, and they could dodge it. That was within Ryan's expectations. So, he fired a Power Shot and made the Magma Sphere explode. The attack immediately melted hundreds of night demons, while others screamed in agony when small amounts of magma ate away their flesh. Although Ryan caused a lot of pain, he only felt refreshed while seeing the demons in pain.

You obtained 125 coins.

You obtained 125 coins.

You obtained 125 coins.

‘!

Things could have been better, but Ryan felt satisfied in killing half of the night demons and deeply wounding the vast majority of those who survived. However, the real thing would start now, with the Magma Demons. Fortunately, the cavalry has finally arrived! Ryan’s golems already could be seen, and they were heading toward him while destroying everything on their way.

“Pay attention!” Ryan said. “I will freeze some of them, and then we will attack those fuckers at the same time. Try not to miss it.”

“Shouldn’t you wait for your golems?” Lucia asked visibly confused.

“No, they are only good at taking damage,” Ryan said. “Besides, they take too much space. They have some long-ranged attacks, but I would rather not to use them right now.”

Ryan fired his frozen arrows with Telekinesis, and the demons tried to punch them. They succeeded, but at the same time, a good part of their bodies froze. As expected, freeze them entirely was impossible.

“Now!” Ryan shouted and made his poisoned bolts rain over the semi-frozen demons. Lucia and her friends also fired with their magic hand cannons. Thanks to the massive number of attacks, three magma demons fell. While Lucia and the others celebrated, Ryan bit his lips in annoyance.

You obtained 11.523 coins.

You obtained 10.333 coins.

You obtained 11.741 coins.

“Only three’! I used several frozen arrows, but only three died,” Ryan muttered. “This is not good.”

Suddenly a demon got too close, and then its body began to emit orange light. In the blink of an eye, the demon crossed hundreds of meters and almost grabbed Ryan’s neck. Somehow, he reacted on time and knocked down the monster with his shield.

“I guess this is the Fiery Charge’!” Ryan furrowed his eyebrows at that fearsome speed. “Wait’! let’s see if I can use this.”

Ryan pierced the demon’s limbs with several bolts, and when the creatures’ health was about to get empty, he used Telekinesis to bring the monster close enough. In the blink of an eye, Ryan created an earth arrow, transformed it into steel, and then sealed the monsters’ soul inside of the arrow,

Chaotic Magma Arrow

Effect: Causes a chain reaction when it hits the target, making several explosions happen in a certain range around the target. The damage will be equal to your dexterity + intelligence multiplied by ten.

It was a problem that the arrow had the fire attribute, but in the end, Ryan already expected that. While he was firing his poisoned bolts with the crossbows on his left hand, Ryan concentrated all his strength on his left arm, which was holding the arrow. In the last second, he activated several buffs before ultimately throwing the arrow toward a cluster of magma demons.

When the explosion happened, Ryan and Furball almost fell to the ground. The shockwave killed several bosses and made spin in the air many others. The small explosions that happened afterward prevented the demons from getting closer. While they hesitated or approached by following a roundabout way, Ryan and the others finally reached the golems.

“Attack with all you got!” Ryan shouted.

Ryan didn’t need to shout commands to his golems, but they also obeyed his orders. Lucia and the others began to attack, and the Magma Demons that were trying to approach got hit by hundreds of magic projectiles. Ryan also increased the output of his attacks by using Rapid Shot again. However, he

soon stopped because something caught his attention. A single Magma Demon was flying above the others, and it wasn't trying to attack Ryan in any way. That was just too suspicious' | Ryan didn't like that, so he began to think about what he should do.

Chapter 304

"What is wrong, Ryan?" Lucia asked. "Attack, your golems mana won't last forever."

"I will attack. You don't have to worry," Ryan said and then showed his crossbow charging Power Shot. "Still, I can't say I am going to hit any demon aside from that one."

Lucia looked at the place Ryan was pointing and saw a magma demon nonchalantly watching their allies being killed. It was hard to tell since they all looked pretty much the same, but Lucia had the impression that the demon was the one who captured her friends.

"Don't try anything," Ryan said. "He is out of your reach. Just focus on what you can do."

That was easier said than done. Just recalling the last time she saw her friends made Lucia bit her lips until they start to bleed. It looked like that frustration would never leave her alone. Regardless, unlike Ryan, Lucia and the others couldn't recover a lot of mana by killing monsters, so she had to focus on using potions. She couldn't concern herself with such a creature right now.

Ryan used Appraisal on that monster, but he didn't find anything weird with the creature. It was just another ordinary magma demon, and yet, Ryan couldn't shake the feeling that the monster was up to no good.

"I guess I will kill it before dealing with the others' |" Ryan furrowed his eyebrows. "Letting this one alive for long might cause some issues' |"

When Ryan aimed his crossbow at the monster, suddenly, a light coming from South hit the creature. Something bad happened' | Ryan prepared to pull the trigger, but he stopped when he saw the monster's new status.

Magma Demon (Mephisto)

Health: 12.900 (+ 100.000)

Mana: 7.500(+ 100.000)

Stamina: 9.000(+ 100.000)

Strength: 1200 (+10.360)

Dexterity: 900 (+5.200)

Speed: 900 (+5.300)

Intelligence: 1000 (+5.260)

Endurance: 1000 (+10.400)

Control: 500 (+5.100)

Mentality: 900 (+10.300)

Luck: 500 (+5.200)

Recovery: 1500 (+10.400)

Willpower: 900 (+10.300)

Coins: —

Status: —

Skill List

Offensive Physical Skills:

Passive Physical Skills:

Spells: Poisonous Catastrophe Lv 250, Ice Meteor Lv 250

Support Skills:

Ryan bit his lips in annoyance; those were some crazy status. As if it wasn't enough, the name on the side of the demon's species bothered Ryan quite a lot. Mephisto; it was another name of a famous demon. One of the generals of the demon's army finally decided to show up on Earth. Although it looked like he had some restrictions and his health decreased every moment, Ryan knew that he couldn't win. It looked like whenever he started to build his confidence, something as troublesome as that always happens;

"Run," Ryan said.

"What?" Lucia asked.

"We can't win against that thing," Ryan said. "If you don't run now, you and your friends will die. One of the generals of the demon's army has come. Even under several restrictions, we can't defeat him."

Lucia didn't want to accept, but even before she could use Appraisal, she saw the demon creating a massive green sphere above itself. That level of attack was insane; something beyond the power of humans. Not only that, the demon was willing to sacrifice even its minions to kill them.

“Run!” Lucia shouted to her friends.

On Furball’s back, Ryan gave the order for his golems to retreat. Even thousands of them couldn’t kill that demon, but there was something else they could do. Ryan tried to keep charging his Power Shot in hopes of making that massive sphere evaporate, but the energy the demon could use was beyond Ryan’s current capabilities. Stopping the attack was definitely impossible’!

Before Ryan could even think of any other plan, the demon threw the massive sphere of poisonous liquid. Ryan gave the order for his golems to form a barricade to protect them, but as if they were made of sand, the monsters dissolved when they came in contact with that. Ryan’s head froze, but he still reacted on time to put himself between the sphere, Furball, and the others. He tried to block the attack with his shield, but the sheer power of the attack sent him flying backward.

While Ryan was trying to recover from the attack and was spinning, he felt his legs burning, and then an excruciating pain passed through all his body. The liquid had hit his legs, but at least Ryan protected his upper body with his shield. He also had to keep using Repair to prevent its total destruction.

When Ryan finally recovered control over his body, his body froze with the shock. Everything around him had been completely destroyed. No’! everything just vanished into the air when they got hit by the poison. The point had eaten a good part of Ryan’s legs, but he wasn’t even bleeding. The grass, the trees’! everything that life had vanished. Ryan didn’t even find a single trace of Furball, Lucia, and the others.

“No’!” Ryan muttered in shock.

The demons had disappeared as well, and in a range of several kilometers, one could only find the body that Mephisto had taken over and Ryan. He didn’t even know what to think and say. Ryan only expected Mephisto to say something as if that was the normal thing to do, but in the end, the demon didn’t think that Ryan was worth hearing his voice. The demon only raised its arms again and prepared another Poisonous Catastrophe. Ryan only woke up from his stupor when a wave of dizziness almost made him collapse. His stamina was almost empty, but his Power Shot still was ready to be used.

Without thinking too much about it, Ryan pointed his weapon at the demon and fired. He had come there to slay all the demons in the area, and he would do that or die trying. Ryan failed in protecting the allies that helped him, but his goals didn’t change.

“I won’t be able to free your country from the hands of demons,” Ryan muttered. “But at the very least, I will prevent them from dirtying and corrupting your homeland even further, Lucia.”

Chapter 305

When Ryan fired his bolt, Mephisto tried to block the projectile with a single hand, but in the end, the demon underestimated Ryan’s power. The creature lost one arm and also control over the spell. Even though it wasn’t his real body, the demon looked annoyed at the wounds on his body. Meanwhile, Ryan was preparing another attack; the look in his eyes annoyed the demon even more. Ryan had the look of someone who was disappointed by a failure, but at the same time, he looked it wouldn’t happen again; as if he was sure that he could defeat the demon.

“You would better hurry up,” Ryan said with a cold glint on his eyes. “I won’t feel much satisfaction defeating you right now, and that feeling will be even more annoying if you die because this body can’t withstand your power.”

In just a few moments, Ryan understood that Mephisto had sacrificed a lot to appear on Earth with that body. Not only was he losing a lot of health over time, but he also could only use two spells. Another thing that Ryan didn’t know was that he couldn’t move. Mephisto felt like he was deep in the ocean, unable to go back to the surface and recover its energy. Being analyzed by such an inferior lifeform so accurately annoyed him even more, but not to the point where he would express his anger to a worm.

Mephisto raised its remaining arm, and then a few moments later, an Ice Meteor appeared out of nowhere and fell toward Ryan. However, Ryan appeared several meters away from the point of impact. Still charging his Power Shot.

“Pass this message to the others pieces of shit like you,” Ryan said. “You will have to try harder to kill me, and as long as I am here, your plans will never work.”

Mephisto didn’t have that much mana available, but he still decided to make meteors rain down over Ryan. This time, he decided to annoy the demon a bit as well. He had to share his frustration. So, he didn’t move an inch and destroyed the single meteor that was about to crush him by using Power of Money alone. The shards still fell on him like some small blocks of ice, but overall, Ryan suffered no damage. Mephisto bit his lips in annoyance.

“That is what I wanted to see,” Ryan smirked. “Show me more what you can do. Oh, wait’! you can only use those two spells. How disappointing.”

“I will make you regret those words, worm,” Mephisto finally opened its mouth. “Death won’t be granted to you; you will be tormented for all eternity.”

“Yeah, yeah, you guys always say the same thing,” Ryan said. “Clear the hellhole in which you guys came from doesn’t stimulate your brain and develop your creativity.”

Mephisto tried to crush Ryan several more times with Ice Meteor, but just to annoy the demon, Ryan destroyed them all with Power of Money. When his health was finally at the third percent of its max, Ryan decided to finish him.

“I will be looking forward to that day. I will make you eat the dirt beneath my shoes,” Ryan said. “Wait patiently until then. Remember, the earth isn’t a place where monsters have the right to live.”

Before Mephisto could say anything, Ryan fired his bolt. The monster exploded in hundreds of pieces since the body couldn’t withstand the demons’ power any longer. In the end, Ryan managed to escape from the monster’s attack by himself, but he didn’t feel like he had won.

You obtained 5.521.362 coins.

The demon gave so many coins to Ryan, and even a full-plate armor was dropped by it. The coins were probably the result of the demon-killing his allies as well as Lucia and the others. Ryan approached the dark armor with many spikes for some reason, but he didn’t feel like picking it. At least for now’! Furball could be resurrected, but not Lucia and the others. Ryan considered that they might die. He even said to himself if that happens, it wouldn’t be his problem or his business. He tried to stop them. He even lost his legs trying to protect them, and yet’! Ryan felt something inside him bothering him.

“I thought that by taunting that asshole, I would feel better’! I was wrong,” Ryan looked up to the sky and then sighed. “I can’t say I liked them, I can’t say they liked me either’! but they fought alongside me, they had the same goal while fighting.”

What was done was done. Ryan did his best, and that had been the outcome. He wasn't strong enough to fight while protecting others against a monster such as Mephisto, so that was the result. Ryan decided to engrave that result and his memory and use that to keep fighting alone'; the feeling that he had in his chest was too annoying, and he didn't want to experience it again.

Black Steel Armor

Effect: Decreases the attack caused by demons and corrupted creatures by ten percent. Health + 100, Endurance + 50

Durability: 200/200

Ryan had no idea for how long that feeling would bother him. However, he didn't want to forget it either. Ryan couldn't allow himself to forget that result, so Ryan promised himself that he would keep using that armor until the day he can't repair it anymore. It would serve as a sign to remember him of that day forever. Until the day his life comes to an end.

"I still need to seal the dungeon' at least partially," Ryan muttered. "Even if I fill the entire place with golems, it is only a matter of time before the bosses completely annihilate them. Well, I will find a solution for this eventually."

Ryan equipped his black armor and headed toward the dungeon, hoping that he would be able to keep his head cool until the very end. Otherwise, that frustration will make him use the purple crystal and challenge Mephisto, even though he didn't have the means to defeat him yet.

Chapter 306

After flying for a while, Ryan finally found the demon's dungeon. For some odd reason, even though Ryan killed the last boss's body, the demons weren't acting in any different way. If he were Mephisto, he would control the demons and lay an ambush, but the demons were just spawning, leaving the dungeon and flying in random directions.

“He probably can’t control or take over the body of weak demons,” Ryan concluded. “Even if he can, the strength that he will be able to show will be pathetic. I guess he decided to leave me alone for the time being.”

Ryan confirmed that theory when he entered the dungeon. The demons didn’t pose a threat, and he didn’t find a single boss either. That was good, but once again, Ryan didn’t feel like celebrating.

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: Crusader, Ranger, and Shaman.

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.

“To think that this would be a tier-three dungeon’! I never considered the idea,” Ryan muttered. “Does that mean that Mephisto is stronger than Baal and Lilith? Or is there some other factor that defines the level of a dungeon?”

That was one of those questions in which Ryan had no hope of finding answers by himself. The only way was to get the power to become a dungeon master.

“Maybe I should delay my plans of exploration and clear the slimes dungeons or some other dungeon to obtain that power,” Ryan said. “I can’t keep neglecting this feature of the system any longer. There is no point in checking the situation on other continents if, in the end, America perishes anyway.”

Regardless, Ryan didn’t even have to think a lot to make his decision. While he was interested in the Shaman class, his interest was powerful enough to make him change his main path of pursuing absolute power with bows and crossbows.

Congratulations! You have become a Level one Ranger!

You obtained the following skills: Firing Posture, Ranger’s Awakening, and Crazy Shot.

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: Firing Posture.

Effect: It increases your firing speed by sacrificing your mobility. While not moving, your firing speed increases by one percent per level.

You obtained 01 status point.

Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Ranger's Awakening.

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

Cost: 50 mana per second.

You obtained 01 status point.

Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Crazy Shot.

Effect: You can fire several magic arrows in an arc that pierces several enemies. You can fire five arrows, and the number of arrows increases by one every five levels.

Cost: 30 mana

You obtained 01 status point.

Those were some impressive skills. While all of them would be very useful, Ryan was much more interested in the Firing Posture. How amazing would it be if one day his attack speed duplicated? He would be able to decimate hordes of demons without moving a single centimeter' that was exactly the kind of power he wanted.

“I wish I had that kind of power earlier’!” Ryan sighed and then shook his head. “This isn’t good. I can’t let this melancholy keep bothering me forever.”

If someone had asked Ryan if he would feel bothered if some people died close to him a few days ago, he would say no. Still, to know that he was wrong made Ryan understand several things. He didn’t hate humans as a whole, he wanted to stay alone, but it didn’t look like he was destined to be a cold-hearted person.

Given that time was of the essence, Ryan bought potions for a while until he filled the last part of the dungeon with golems. His summoned monsters had reached an impressive level in the last few days, so Ryan knew they would be able to last for a while’! As long as they use only Stone Bullets, that was the order he gave to them.

After that, Ryan only spent a few minutes checking the dungeon shop to see if anything interesting had appeared, but that didn’t, so Ryan hurried to follow his path toward South.

Thanks to the demons, Ryan didn’t find many monsters on his way. Not that he wanted to waste time dealing with small fries, Furball wasn’t with him for now, so there was no reason for Ryan to take his time while moving.

“That being said, I will have to focus on increasing his defenses,” Ryan muttered. “I thought he had grown quite a lot, but in the end, his body was completely annihilated by a single attack.”

It couldn’t be helped given the monster Ryan fought against, but such an excuse couldn’t be used forever since Ryan was planning to fight those motherfuckers several times in the future.

In any case, just like Ryan found a few monsters, he didn’t find a single dungeon on his path. His main goal was to look for a high concentration of monsters after all. And in the same way, he didn’t find any dungeon. He didn’t find any sign of a single group of survivors. The chances that Lucia and her friends were the last ones to die was increasing, but in the end, Ryan decided not to give up on hope. Thinking that humans were still dying and nearly facing extinction was something that he couldn’t accept so easily.

“I can’t carry that burden alone, but I guess to avoid that, I need to train harder,” Ryan said. “Come to think of it. I can’t hope to preserve the human race if I am the only one alive. I should better find a way to make sure that some couples will survive this madness in order to procreate and then repopulate Earth’! why the hell I am thinking about this...”

Chapter 307

After Ryan left Peru behind, he crossed Chile from North to South. That country was different from all the countries Ryan knew due to the shape of its territory. Moreover, Ryan only found a single type of monster there. They were the Giant Crabs.

Giant Crab Lv 115

Health: 2.500/2.500

Mana: 600/600

Stamina: 1.500/1.500

Strength: 800

Dexterity: 300

Speed: 150

Intelligence: 400

Endurance: 1000

Control: 250

Mentality: 500

Luck: 500

Recovery: 750

Willpower: 500

Coins: —

Status: 00

Skill List

Offensive Physical Skills: Smash Lv 100

Passive Physical Skills: Stone Skin Lv 90, Bronze Skin Lv 70

Spells: Water Cannon Lv 50, Water Sphere Lv 50

Support Skills: Cold Resistance Lv 150, Fire Resistance Lv 50, Wind Resistance Lv 30

At first, Ryan ignored them, but once he could summon Furball again and learned that he could increase his stamina by eating them, Ryan decided to take his time, even though he didn't find the dungeon or a single survivor.

"Sorry, buddy, you had a hard time because of me," Ryan patted Furball's head. "Let's work in order for that not to happen again. Anyway, I guess their dungeon is underwater."

Ryan's stock of food was getting empty, so he resumed his old eating habits. While Furball was eating the crabs just fine in their current state, Ryan felt the need to cook them quite a lot. The last thing he needed right now was to have an alien bacterium in his stomach. As expected, their meat was pretty good. Also, by using them as material, the chances of creating frozen arrows increased a lot, so Ryan made sure to make a stock.

"It is starting to get cold' | we are reaching the extreme south of the American continent, Furball," Ryan said and then slightly trembled. "I don't get along well with the cold. Let's hope you will fare better."

Although Ryan was worried about Furball, he should have felt more worried about himself since the temperature was dropping and he was wearing clothes that made him look like someone who was going shopping. Regardless, Ryan and Furball soon reached the mountain at the extreme south of the American continent because they only found the Giant Crabs on their way, and they were too slow to pursue them in big numbers. Ryan thought that he should have moved a little bit from the coast to find other monsters, but in the end, he was also hoping to find some megalodons and dragons fighting, which he never did. The world was changing again, and Ryan barely found the answers regarding the first changes' |

Pretty much like the North-East part of his home country, Ryan found the extreme south of the continent to be covered in snow and ice. Things were so cold there that Ryan could only see the white of the snow and the gray of the clouds in the sky in hundreds of kilometers. Eventually, Ryan probably one of the reasons that place was like that.

Ice Golem Lv 125

Health: 3.000/3.000

Mana: 1.200/1.200

Stamina: 1.500/1.500

Strength: 800 (+ 300)

Dexterity: 300

Speed: 200

Intelligence: 200

Endurance: 1600 (+ 400)

Control: 200

Mentality: 500 (+ 400)

Luck: 100

Recovery: 800 (+ 400)

Willpower: 500 (+ 400)

Coins: —

Status: 00

Skill List

Offensive Physical Skills: Freezing Touch Lv 100

Passive Physical Skills: Ice Layer Lv 110, Bronze Skin Lv 90

Spells: Water Ice Punch Lv 60, Ice Arrow Lv 60

Support Skills: Cold Resistance Lv 250, Fire Resistance Lv 50, Earth Resistance Lv 80

“The monsters’ levels are increasing too fast’!” Ryan furrowed his eyebrows. “I don’t like this’! then again, this might be a coincidence since anyone sane wouldn’t live in this mountainous region where the wind alone can freeze my balls so easily. Regardless, the dungeon that is spawning those creatures already broke three-time and is closer to experiencing a fourth dungeon break. Can I stop this before it is too late?”

Ryan fired his bolts and made the golem break into several pieces. In the end, he had to use more mana than he recovered by defeating the monsters’! that job will be tough.

After doing some basic math, and adding his experience while killing ice golems, Ryan concluded that the total damage caused was calculated by his dexterity minus the enemies’ endurance. Although he imagined that was the case a long time ago, only now he had the chance to prove that theory since his crossbow’s effect was useless against them. Eventually, Ryan also learned that Furball could increase his mentality by eating their cores’! which was weird since the other golems’ cores increased his endurance’!

“Finding the dungeon in this place will be a pain in the ass. Clearing the dungeon in just five days is definitely impossible,” Ryan rubbed his chin thoughtfully. “Whatever’! it is not like I need to rush and make a mess out of the things because I am in a race against time. Let’s take our time and build our strength, Furball.”

Furball barked as if he was saying that he agreed with Ryan’s idea. Given that Ryan was expending more mana than usual, then taking his time was definitely the right answer. After all, Icebound will be able to level up faster that way.

Ryan and Furball began to head south while defeating all the golems on the way, but while they were in the middle of a fight, suddenly, Ryan felt a shiver ran down on his back. His life was in danger’! he used Flash to escape whatever was going to happen, but in the end, nothing happened. That shiver had been too intense to be caused by the cold wind.

“Am I’! imagining things here?” Ryan frowned while looking around and finding nothing in the distance.

Ryan's instincts had gotten better in those four months, so he couldn't believe that was just his imagination. He definitely felt something, like the death glare of a monster. Ryan, Furball, and the monsters being spawned by the golems' dungeons weren't the only ones that were in those mountains; Ryan was certain of it.

Chapter 308

Mark was tapping on his desk with his index finger while watching the footage of the battle between Ryan, the inhabitants of Peru, against the demons' army. He had already watched that dozens of times, but he still couldn't believe the outcome of that fight. Somehow, Ryan won against a demon that had magical powers that were close to nuclear bombs. While that was a relief, it wasn't a relief to know that the demon would resurrect eventually.

Suddenly, the door of his office opened, and Alissa showed herself. As usual, she didn't knock on the door. Mark was already used to it, but even so, he let out a sigh because it was troublesome to find a person who couldn't care less about his authority on the base.

"You are still at it?" Alissa frowned. "If you are really that bored, I can recommend you to watch some movies much better than that one."

"You still didn't tell me your impressions of this fight, Alissa," Mark said.

"There is nothing to say, really," Alissa shrugged. "If you have good eyes alone and a functioning brain, you can tell that despite having his ass kicked, Ryan survived against a demon that showed up on Earth under several restrictions."

"Restrictions?" Mark frowned. "He dropped dozens on ice meteors on Ryan. His first attack had power comparable to a nuclear bomb!"

"Those were the only spells he could use at the time," Alissa explained. "Also, don't you find it weird that a demon that can fly didn't move a single inch from the same spot?"

"Yes; I noticed that," Mark said.

“Also, your satellite didn’t catch that, but the demon received some sort of energy,” Alissa said. “The energy came from South in a straight line. Did you find something in that direction?”

“Ryan headed there, and he found the demons’ dungeon,” Mark replied.

“Then, there is no mistake, the dungeon master of that place decided to fight against Ryan and the others,” Orgar suddenly jumped in the conversation. “That would explain the restrictions. Considering what we know, it was probably one of the generals of the demons’ army.”

Mark sighed; those names come so often this day that he felt that he was growing one year older whenever that happened. The thought that a weakened creature had the power of a nuclear bomb was that much disheartening.

“Ryan keeps getting on his way, huh,” Alissa nodded. “I hate to say this, but he has some balls to do that over and over again alone.”

“Then don’t say it with a straight face,” Orgar said.

“Anyway, the Checkpoints are already installed on the dungeons you asked,” Alissa declared. “As promised, I will leave one of my guys there to keep watching the place all the time, and the cost to use them will be five thousand coins. A lot of mana is used to use those things, and I can’t let you use my powers for free.”

“That is alright. I already warned everyone about the requirements. I assure you that you won’t find any problems on our end,” Mark said. “You have my thanks for helping us with that. You saved us a lot of time.”

“I don’t need your thanks. The payment in coins is all that I need,” Alissa waved her hand. “Besides, my guys will also use them.”

“At least you are learning something from Ryan,” Orgar said. “I must say that act like cheapskate suits you well.”

“Shut up’! Anyway, I will install others eventually,” Alissa said a bit annoyed and then sighed. “Flying around the country only to create those are too boring.”

“I understand,” Mark forced a smile.

The plan to seal all the dungeon in the country was progressing well, but in the end, Mark needed something more to guarantee that mistakes won’t be made and the life of his soldiers won’t be lost. So, he asked Alissa if there was some method of fast travel that she could recommend. In the end, Alissa sold him the information about Checkpoint. In a spell that connected the space between two points, a lot of mana was used to use such a technique, but it was only natural since that was the lowest level of teleportation.

However, Alissa wouldn’t teach the skill for free, and aside from her and Zoe, not a single survivor in the base had enough mana to use the spell. So, he hired Alissa’s services. Although she was reluctant at first, Alissa recognized the fact that her soldiers needed that method of transportation. Besides, it was too much of a pain to transport them around the country. Now thirty or so dungeons were connected to the military base, and fortunately, only Alissa and another person could effectively use the Checkpoints. So, there was no danger of the base being invaded through the Checkpoints.

“Aren’t you going to ask his report?” Alissa asked.

“No’!” Mark replied. “I will let Ryan decide when he will give his reports. After that fight, I believe he wants to stay alone for a while longer.”

“He will probably get pissed if he learns that you are that considerate toward him,” Alissa said. “Where is he right now?”

“At the extreme south of the continent, hunting ice golems,” Mark replied. “I believe he will stay there for a while. That area isn’t appropriate to search for monsters, after all. Ice golems, huh’! Suddenly I feel like eating some ice cream.”

Mark frowned when he heard that. Only someone like Alissa would connect ice golems to ice cream’! then again. It wasn’t the first time that her behavior made him frown.

“You shouldn’t worry too much about him,” Alissa said. “Ryan is as resilient as he is stubborn. Besides, I can’t imagine him being defeated even fighting against several dragons’ ; unless they find a way to nullify his mobility.”

“I also agree with that,” Mark said. “I am more worried about the effects of the isolation on his mind. He is a tough lad that went through a lot’ ; Still, there is only so much human’s psych can endure alone. Men aren’t islands.

Chapter 309

After five days of hunting non-stop the golems, Ryan finally felt the whole Earth trembling. The fourth dungeon breaks have finally started’ ; However, even after a full day, he didn’t find a massive concentration of golems that could help him find the dungeon. Moreover, the number of encounters didn’t increase either.

“Something smells fishy here’ ;” Ryan frowned.

While advancing through the continent at a decent speed wasn’t so bad, Ryan couldn’t help but worry about the lack of monsters. Maybe the golems were fighting against other monster species, even though Ryan never found a single sign of other species. Perhaps some humans were hunting them, but to stay in that stupidly cold area for long, they would have to be even more insane than Ryan. There was no food around, and they certainly couldn’t eat golems. Ryan stored some fried crab meat inside his ring, but the stock was quickly approaching its bottom.

“It is also weird that a dungeon appeared at this godforsaken plane,” Ryan muttered. “I can’t see any advantage at making monsters spawn here since there are only a few villages here and there. Maybe the dungeon master wanted to create a massive army of ice golems, but they would level up a lot faster by fighting against other creatures’ ;”

Regardless, even though something was off, it doesn’t matter what that was. Ryan’s goal didn’t change, and he would exterminate as many monsters as possible while he looks for the damn dungeon.

As if the dungeon master had planned to annoy Ryan by doing that, he had located the dungeon in a cliff’ ; in the most southern part of the continent. Ryan couldn’t even keep going south

because there was only the sea from that point onward. After clearing the dungeon, Ryan will have to head East.

“Well, let’s look on the bright side, Furball,” Ryan shrugged. “Our Cold Resistance increased quite a lot in the last few days.”

Although Ryan looked pretty relaxed, something was bothering him; it was the fact that the number of golems around the dungeon was stupidly low. He didn’t find any sign of survivors’ camp in hundreds of kilometers, nor could he see one in front of the dungeon. So, it didn’t make sense that the situation looked so favorable to him. Still, there was only one thing Ryan could do: keep moving forward while preparing for a fight.

Ryan and Furball headed toward the dungeon with their guard raised. They were ready to fight. In fact, if a fight doesn’t occur, they would feel disappointed. Some ice golems were leaving the dungeon now and then, so Ryan concluded that the place was empty. However, suddenly, the area began to tremble; for an instant. Ryan imagined that the fifth dungeon break decided to happen many weeks ahead of schedule. However, Ryan could tell that the earthquake wasn’t happening all over the world.

From the bottom of the sea, a creature emerged and looked directly at Ryan; as expected. Something big stayed close to the dungeon and killed all the golems that spawned in the last four months. That creature was an ice dragon; the creature’s body was completely covered in a thick layer of ice. Despite that, the monster flew upward at a speed that made even Ryan feel impressed. Eventually, the light-blue monster began to fly around the area while studying Ryan. He could tell; that dragon was like Orgar. It had the same level of power and intelligence; defeating that will be hard.

Femradiel (Ice Dragon) ““ Lv 200

Health: 105.000

Mana: 150.000

Stamina: 80.000

Strength: 5000

Dexterity: 7000

Speed: 4000

Intelligence: 10000

Endurance: 4000

Control: 6000

Mentality: 5000

Luck: 1000

Recovery: 10000

Willpower: 3500

Coins: —

Status: —

Skill List

Offensive Physical Skills: Freezing Touch Lv 150

Passive Physical Skills: Mind Enhancement Lv 150, Frost Armor Lv 200

“Stupid over-sized lizard’!” Ryan muttered under his breath while biting his lips.

Chapter 310

When the dragon got close enough, it opened its mouth, and a lot of ice begun to appear around the creature. However, before the creature could do anything, Ryan fired dozens of his explosive arrows at the monster’s face. The spell of the creature was canceled, and a cloud of steam emerged.

After a few seconds, the ice dragon felt something piercing the back of its head and something else biting its neck. Ryan and Furball got close enough and didn’t waste time with pleasantries and just started the carnage. While Furball was having a hard time biting the ice scales, Ryan had an easier time since he pierced his three flame swords on the back of the dragon. Their effects were decreasing the effects of Frost Armor, and thus Ryan was able to pierce Paralyzing Spear pretty deep on the monster’s flesh. However, when he pulled his crossbow to attack, Ryan felt the sound of dozens of Ice Spear being created above him. The projectiles hit the monster’s back since he dodged them, but unfortunately, the ice dragon didn’t suffer even a scratch from its own attacks.

Furball also had to let go of the dragon’s neck since the monster tried to smash him with his claws. Without other choices, Ryan and Furball moved away from the dragon. Attacking up close wouldn’t be that easy, it seemed’!

“Furball, just run around while using Fireball,” Ryan said. “I will handle the rest.”

Ryan equipped his ax in one hand and the crossbow in the other. Although he wouldn’t be able to cause much damage while holding a melee weapon with a single hand, it was enough for the time being.

Furball began to run to the dragon’s left side, and Ryan headed to the right side. The creature opened its mouth again, but it was forced to close its eyes when Ryan fired his bolts toward them. At the same time, Furball began to shot his Fireballs. Steam began to rise again, and Ryan used that chance and approached with Flash, he tried to attack the dragon’s left eye with his ax, but the monster used its left arm to block his attack. Ryan used Flash again to gain some distance from the creature.

Soon after, the ice dragon began to flap its wings and left the area. It understood that fighting up close wasn't a good idea against Ryan and Furball. While its spells worked better at a certain distance, the creature didn't feel like risking itself so much.

Ryan used that chance to keep attack using Firing Position, but in the end, he was forced to run around since the dragon used its Ice Breath and tried to freeze him and Furball. Fortunately, they escaped the attack relying on their speed alone since the dragon wanted to keep a certain distance from them.

"I guess there is no other choice' ¦ I have to keep relying on Power Shot," Ryan frowned.

Since the ice dragon didn't look like it wanted to abandon that area, Ryan will have a one hundred percent of chance of hitting and causing critical damage as long as he uses Deadly Aim and Perfect Aim. However, Ryan felt it would be a waste of time if the dragon uses its Ice Spears again to decrease his attacks' power. In a fight of attrition, Ryan had the disadvantage since he was weaker and had much less mana and recovery. Mana potions could only help him for so long, after all.

"I guess I have two options, keep spamming poisoned bolts and hope that the poison will eventually kill the beast, or charge a single Power Shot to its limits," Ryan muttered while furrowing his eyebrows.

The first option seemed less troublesome, but since the dragon's mentality was much higher than Ryan's intelligence, the effects of the poison were laughable. The second option was dangerous. Keep charging an attack and let the dragon rampage unchecked might cause some serious problems' ¦

Before Ryan could take his decision, the dragon stopped Ice Breath and began to fire Ice Spears toward Ryan and Furball. To think that a monster could do that when they were in two different places' ¦ moreover, the dragon could make the ice spears appear pretty much anywhere. Thus, Ryan and Furball only had a few moments to recognize the threat and move away from it.

Ryan looked at the weapons on the back of the dragon, and he realized that there was another way' ¦ but it would be very risky. However, Ryan quickly made his choice. There wasn't such a thing as a safe method to win against a dragon, and Ryan refused to give too many chances for the dragon to kill him and Furball.

the ice dragon stopped flying mid-air and then began to emit a lot of mana. As if they were antennas or something, the spears began to absorb the mana and increase size.

"I don't like this," Ryan said. "Let's get the hell out of here, Furball."

Furball barked, and they tried to leave the area, but then they tried to jump over the spears, something invisible blocked their path' ¦ Ryan had seen something similar before. A semi-transparent magic barrier' ¦ Alissa used that once.

"It can't be helped' ¦" Ryan clicked his tongue in annoyance. "Let's make that over-sized lizard regret this."

Ryan and Furball jumped toward the dragon, and Ryan was ready to make his Paralyzing Spear pierce the back of the monster even more, but before they could do anything, the monster stopped flying and entered in a weird posture. While covering its face with its wings and shrieking its body, the ice dragon fell on the ground as if it was a huge block of ice.

When Ryan began to charge his Concentrated Strike, the ice dragon started to shine. Its light-blue tone seemed much more sparkling all of a sudden, and Ryan didn't like that. He didn't wait for the attack to become stronger, Ryan used Concentrated Strike over and over again, but the endurance of the monster also had increased. As if that wasn't enough, the temperature was decreasing.

"The hell is this thing trying to pull off?" Ryan bit his lips in annoyance.

Ryan, for some reason, recalled a skill that some monsters had in games. They could concentrate all their energy on a single point, and they could cause massive damage by self-destructing. He couldn't believe that a dragon would go that far, but the ice dragon was definitely planning something similar to kill him. That vast amount of mana being concentrated seemed like good enough proof.

"Furball, get behind me!" Ryan shouted.

Suddenly, the glow around the dragon grew stronger, and Ryan hurried to get away from the monster, he tried to use Power of Money to destroy the ice spears, but he failed. While clenching his

When Ryan was about to land the final attack, the light expanded, and Ryan was forced to close his eyes, but before he could become a statue of ice again, he made his sword pierce all the way to the dragon's brain. When Ryan opened his eyes, he saw himself standing at the top of the dead dragon. In the end, Ryan won, but it looked like something was off ;

"Where are my coins?" Ryan asked with a frown on his face.

As if that wasn't enough, Ryan couldn't see any drop around the corpse either' ; After thinking for a while, Ryan concluded that the damn dragon didn't try to freeze everything again, that light had been just a decoy to divert from Ryan's attention while the monster escaped. Still, to think that a dragon would leave its body behind' ; they sure had a lot of interesting skills. Regardless, Ryan ended up wasting a lot of time.

Class: Hunter Lv 67 (+ 02 UP / Elementalist Lv 55 / Monk Lv 16 (-)

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

Rank: 222th

Health: 1156 /1156 (3,19/s)

Mana: 1818 /1818 (3,19/s)

Stamina: 1559 /1559 (3,19/s)

Strength: 31 (+166) (+130)

Dexterity: 1600 (+1339) (+82)

Speed: 85 (+611) (+48)

Intelligence: 81 (+513) (+3)

Endurance: 28 (+131) (+160)

Control: 06 (+622) (+10)

Mentality: 08 (+36) (+30)

Luck: 74 (+15)

Recovery: 700 (+991) (+330)

Willpower: 30 (+36)

Coins: 17.236.441

Status: 00

Skill List

Offensive Physical Skills: Power Shot Lv 85 (+ 04 UP), Rapid Shot Lv 48 (+ 06 UP),

Passive Physical Skills: Eagle Eyes Lv 66 (+ 03 UP), Concentration Lv 66 (+ 03 UP), Archery Lv 66 (+ 03 UP), Accuracy Lv 66 (+ 03 UP), Firing Posture Lv 11,

Spells: Ranger's Awakening Lv 11, Crazy Shot Lv 06

Support Skills: Icebound Lv 19 (+ 04 UP), Cold Resistance Lv 34 (+ 15 UP), Freeze Resistance Lv 01,

Classes:

Combat: Beastmaster Lv 32 (+ 02 UP), Archer Lv 60 (+ 02 UP), Combat Archer Lv 43 (+ 03 UP), Sniper Lv 36 (+ 03 UP), Weapons Master Lv 16 (+ 03 UP), Sentinel Lv 09 (+ 03 UP), Demon Hunter Lv 15 (+ 03 UP), Ranger Lv 06,

Non-Combatant:

Race: Centaur

Chapter 312

It was a pity after all that struggle, but Ryan decided not to complain about it. In the end, he managed to protect Furball, even though he left him behind in a prison of ice.

“Sorry, buddy,” Ryan said after he freed his partner.

Fortunately, due to all the time they spent in that area, their Cold Resistance was high, so Furball didn't suffer a lot. Regardless, it was time to move on since Ryan felt like he wasted his time there. Since that was annoying, it was better to hurry up and leave. Still, before anything, they had to check the dungeon.

Just like the dire wolves' dungeon, the dungeon was like an ice cave. It was so slippery that Ryan decided to cross while floating by using Telekinesis. For some reason, Furball could walk inside the dungeon just fine.

Aside from the occasional ice golems, Ryan and Furball only found the boss at the end of the dungeon'! it was another ice golem who was ten times stronger than the ordinary monsters. However, since its intelligence was at the level of slimes, the fight ended quite easily and very anticlimactically.

“A tier two dungeon, huh,” Ryan muttered. “I should have known'!”

Ryan still believed that someone made that dungeon appear at such a weird place for a reason and that someone was beyond the purple crystal. Unfortunately, Ryan couldn't check that individual, so he just left the purple crystal alone. Once he finishes his travels around the continent, he might find them when he becomes a dungeon master' ;

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: Champion, Bard, and Whitesmith.

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.

"Two new classes that I already saw before. While Bard is supposed to be the best option considering my build, I already have that class," Ryan frowned while he checked his options. "I guess I will pick Whitesmith. The stock of iron ores is growing bigger with each day, and I don't know what to do with them. But wait' ; is Whitesmith a magic class?"

Usually, the third option was always a magic class' ; but Ryan couldn't help but think that something was off. In any case, he chose that class anyway.

Congratulations! You have become a Level one Whitesmith!

You obtained the following skills: Battle Machine, Dungeon Shop, and Improved Creation.

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

Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Battle Machine.

Effect: It grants you the chance to create a small turret that fires Mana Bullets. By leveling up this skill, you can increase its damage output, energy storage, and range of attack.

Cost: 50 mana and 10 iron ores

You obtained 01 status point.

Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Dungeon Shop.

Effect: It grants you the power to open the last dungeon shop's menu visited anywhere you are. You can't use this skill while fighting.

Cost: 100 mana

You obtained 01 status point.

Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Improved Creation.

Effect: It increases the quality of the items you create by one percent per level.

You obtained 01 status point.

“ ‘! I already said this many times, but’! those are some weird skills,” Ryan frowned.

Since Ryan wasn't that creative and he could create pretty much every item, weapon, or armor that he wants by manipulating earth, he was having a hard time how to use the iron ores, but now he found a good use for them. Regardless, he had to see how useful Battle Machines could be. As for Dungeon Shop and Improved Creation, there were no mistakes that they would be useful to him.

Ryan tried to use the skill, but the skill failed'! it looked like he needed the iron ores in hand to use them. Regardless, when the skill finally worked, the ores disappeared from his hand, and a small turret that had a mini cannon appeared in front of him. The turret was smaller than his head, it was a bit heavy, but he could lift it and even store it in his ring.

Battle Machine Lv 01

Health: —

Mana: 100/100

Stamina: —

Mana Bullet: Causes five points of damage upon contact.

Cost: 05 mana

Range: 20 meters

Recovery: 600

Durability: 20/20

It was weird that the item had only some status, but it was understandable. In any case, it could be really useful if Ryan keeps using the skill. The problem was to how to use them in real combat'; aside from putting them around the dungeon entrances, Ryan couldn't imagine many other ways in which those could be really effective.

"It looks like the skills are starting to deviate a bit from the ordinary types, plain spells are getting behind, and attacks that focus on a massive area of effect damage are becoming easier to find," Ryan said. "That and spells like these, that focus more on utility than anything."

Although it was interesting and useful in some aspects, that kind of class couldn't maximize his raw damage output, not directly at least. Regardless, after leaving the dungeon, Ryan restocked his supply of potions. Furball decided to eat a little of the dragon's corpse, but for some reason, it didn't taste that good, and he soon gave up. At the same time, the dragon heart didn't increase Ryan's status.

"This fight has been a waste of time in many aspects';" Ryan said and then sighed. "Regardless, why that ice dragon was here killing golems? Given its level, the monster should have been hunting other

creatures. That reminds me, the monster was in the ocean before the fight' ¦ what happened to the megalodons?"

The number of questions in Ryan's head was starting to increase, and he couldn't even imagine the day where he would be able to obtain the answers of all of them.

Chapter 313

After leaving Chile behind, Ryan began to travel through Argentina. However, he didn't find any signs of survivors as well. The only thing he found weird was Furball's behavior that now and then, he would glare at him and would growl in anger.

"What is up, buddy?" Ryan frowned. "Do I smell or something? I mean, no offense, but you don't smell like flowers either, just look at your diet."

Weirdly enough, whenever that happened, and Ryan said anything to Furball, his partner would calm down as if nothing had happened. Ryan already had too many things in mind, so he didn't want to someday wake up while being bitten by Furball, but if that behavior continues, he will have to send Furball away at least at night.

Regardless, another weird thing was that while Ryan was close to the ocean, he only found Giant Crabs. Although they were tasty, Ryan was already getting sick of eating them for breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

"Grrrrrrr."

"Seriously' ¦ what is wrong with you?" Ryan sighed and then asked Furball.

Obviously, Ryan wasn't expecting a proper answer, but still, that behavior was getting tiresome. It was weird' ¦ Furball began to act like that after the fight against the ice dragon. Ryan couldn't tell what changed on him to behave like that. Maybe he was angry because Ryan left him stuck on a massive block of ice for a few minutes.

“Then again, if you were that angry, you wouldn’t show that only now and then’ |” Ryan frowned.
“Something in me is bothering you’ | right?”

Furball barked obediently as usual’ | as expected, his partner noticed that something changed on him, but Ryan himself had no idea what that was. He didn’t feel different in any way.

“Since the end of that fight’ |” Ryan muttered.

After checking his status, Ryan only confirmed that nothing was different with him. Still, just in case, he decided to let the screen open in case something happens and he doesn’t notice.

After moving for a few hours, Ryan didn’t notice anything weird. However, when he closed his status screen because he saw a new species of monster in the distance, Ryan noticed something. His mana bar decreased a little’ | not the total amount. The bar changed as if he had used some skill, which he didn’t.

“Am I sick or something?” Ryan Frowned. “It wouldn’t surprise me if those monsters brought some kind of disease to Earth.”

Suddenly, Furball barked a little more loudly than usual. Ryan found that strange, but he more or less understood what he was trying to say.

“You don’t think I am sick?” Ryan asked.

Furball barked, but this time, in the usual volume. Apparently, he barked more loudly when he didn’t agree with it. Although Ryan found it strange that he was learning to understand a mythical wolf, it was useful since Furball probably had good instincts for that kind of thing.

“What do you think I have then?” Ryan asked.

That was a thought question. It wasn’t like Furball could answer that with a yes or no. Regardless, after staying silent for a while, Furball approached Ryan and then touched his belly with his paw.

“What about my belly?” Ryan asked. “You should learn how to speak properly, Furball. We are wasting time here.”

Somehow, Furball could understand everything Ryan says. So, he stayed quiet for a while, thinking about what he should do.

“This isn’t going anywhere’ ¦ I should ask some questions that you can answer with a yes or no.” Ryan said. “Something changed about me, right? Did that happen before we fought the ice dragon?”

Furball barked loudly’ ¦ the answer was no. Ryan rubbed his chin thoughtfully, and then he asked if something changed after the fight, but Furball did the same thing.

“Not before and not after’ ¦” Ryan frowned. “Something changed during the fight?”

Furball barked in a normal tone. Ryan recalled the whole fight, but he couldn’t remember anything weird aside from the fact that the dragon escaped by leaving its body behind’ ¦ then Ryan understood why Furball patted his belly. It was hard to believe, but it looked like the ice dragon escaped inside of him.

“… did you see the dragon entering my body?” Ryan asked.

Furball normally barked again, and Ryan opened his eyes widely. How come he didn’t notice that? A fucking dragon was inside of him, and he didn’t notice anything? That was insane’ ¦

“Hey, you piece of shit,” Ryan said. “If you are hearing this, leave my body right now, and I will grant you a quick death. waste too much of my time, and I will make you regret it.”

Unfortunately, Ryan didn’t hear an answer, but given that his mana was being drained now and then by the dragon, he knew exactly what he should do. Furball only barked when they weren’t fighting, so it was clear that the dragon wanted Ryan’s mana. So, he just has to keep using his mana.

Although it was a bit tiring, Ryan fired dozens of bolts upward, and his mana got empty. He took out some of his weapons and used them alongside Telekinesis. Thanks to it, Ryan’s mana was constantly

empty. For the time being, he didn't notice anything off. However, when he started his preparations to approach the monsters in the distance, he heard an unknown voice.

"All right, stop this. Stop using your mana. Let's talk this through."

Ryan opened his eyes widely when he heard that voice. Although it was a powerful voice like Orgar's, it was also more delicate and less rough. It was the voice of a female dragon.

"What the hell!" Ryan muttered. "Leave my body now, you freak. Or I will rip you apart with my bare hands."

"It is impossible. Right now, I don't have a physical body; hence you can't damage me, much less kill me. Anyway, as I said, stop using your mana, and let's negotiate."

Instead of keeping insisting, Ryan decided to use Purification, but unfortunately, it didn't work. However, he wouldn't give up that easily.

Chapter 314

Ryan used Purification several times, but just like he didn't notice a single difference, nothing changed as well. The reason was simple.

"I am not a negative effect, so that this spell won't work on me. Anyway, I must apologize for before, I thought you were an enemy when you suddenly invaded my territory, but it looks like I was wrong."

Ryan ignored the voice and then rubbed his chin thoughtfully. How could he damage the spirit of a dragon. Although Purification was useless, Ryan knew that certain items and spells could work even against powerful dragons. Orgar was a fine example of that. However, Ryan didn't have any skills that could affect something inside him without affecting himself as well.

"Are you listening to me? I am apologizing for what I did. I am not your enemy, and as a sign of apology, I want to make a deal with you."

"You are hundred percent my enemy because of you fuckers. Earth experienced hell; besides, you almost killed me," Ryan said. "No apology or deal will be enough to make me forgive you for that. Not to mention, you tried to steal my mana while you were hidden inside me. You are the last thing I want to make a deal with."

"I apologize once again. I know that this sounds like a poor excuse, but I was desperate, and I did what I did to survive. You have my word; I won't do anything suspicious while I am inside you."

"You can take your word and stick up your ass," Ryan said. "Maybe I can't do anything with you now, but one day I will be able to, and on that day, I will make you regret this."

"Cool your head and think carefully. You will gain a lot just by hearing me out. I know that this will sound too convenient, but you will gain a lot of power if you help me."

"I don't need your power, as far as I am concerned, I kicked your ass without trying hard," Ryan said.

"... Indeed, you did that, but even with your current strength, there are foes that you can't win against, right?"

"... Fucking dragons and their damn habit of reading other people's minds," Ryan clicked his tongue in annoyance.

"Can you please mind your language? I am trying to be civilized here! I am a superior life form, and yet, I am willing to talk with you."

"Superior my ass, you are just an oversized lizard that tried to kill me," Ryan said.

"As far as I am concerned, we are even. We fought and tried to kill each other, I lost, and you and your warg even ate a few parts of my old body. That definitely makes us even. Anyway, here is the deal, you will give me some of your mana for a while, and I will grant you a part of my powers."

"I refuse. Just show up already so that I can kill you," Ryan said.

“... You really are naive; do you really think I will do that just because you asked me to?”

“Whether you do or not, it doesn’t matter,” Ryan said. “Just like I said before, I will find a way to kill you. Still, knowing that you don’t have the courage to face me after all these insults puts me at ease since it only proves to me that you are pathetic. It will take a while, but eventually, I will kill you.”

“All right’! let’s see you try.”

The ice dragon went silent after that. Still, it looked like she still was conscious since Ryan’s mana was being sucked every single second. It was only a single point of mana per second, but it was the annoying way.

Hopefully, Ryan will find a method to get of that parasite inside his body. Maybe Alissa and Orgar could help him with that, but he decided to look himself first for a solution instead of running toward them for help. Knowing Alissa, she would bother him a lot afterward if he asks her for help.

“There must be a class or skill that will help me with this,” Ryan rubbed his chin thoughtfully. “Maybe even a magic item might help me with this’! unfortunately, finding any of those options will be hard.”

“You should give up on that. While I am an anomaly in your body, I am not causing any harm. Skills and magic items that can purify your body only affect creatures when they pose a threat to you.”

“Bullshit, you are sucking my mana. You clearly are a threat to my body,” Ryan protested showing an angry expression on his face.

“I am only draining mana when your mana bar is already full. Not only that, your current recovery grants you more mana than I can absorb right now, so you aren’t being harmed in any way.”

Ryan couldn’t even understand why he was trying to dialogue with a dragon. In the end, the beast would always defend its actions, even though they were clearly impossible to defend. Regardless, instead of worrying endlessly about that problem, Ryan decided to move on since that was the only thing he could do to find a solution to that problem as fast as possible.

After focusing his eyes in the distance again, Ryan recognized once more the species of the creature that was blocking his path. For a change, he was going to face something that wasn't a Giant Crab. They were scorpions, and considering that they had some sort of metal in the place of their carapaces, Ryan concluded that they would be hard to deal with.

Iron Scorpion "" Lv 120

Health: 1500/1500

Mana: 1500/1500

Stamina: 1500/1500

Strength: 800

Dexterity: 800

Speed: 750

Intelligence: 800

Endurance: 1100

Control: 550

Mentality: 800

Luck: 250

Recovery: 1100

Willpower: 500

Coins: —

Status: —

Skill List

Offensive Physical Skills: Poisonous Sting Lv 110

Passive Physical Skills: Stone Skin Lv 100, Bronze Skin Lv 80

Spells: Poison Bullet Lv 100, Poison Sphere Lv 80

Support Skills: Fire Resistance Lv 80, Cold Resistance Lv 80, Earth Resistance Lv 80, Poison Resistance Lv 200

Chapter 315

Those scorpions were a bad match-up against Ryan, given that the greatest strength of his weapon was the poison effect. Still, while they would cause some problems for him, it wasn't enough to make Ryan give up. His coins were piling up nicely, and he was almost sure that he would be able to learn Katelyn's skill to upgrade weapons when he obtains twenty million coins. However, if by some chance he finds a way to get rid of the dragon inside him with those coins, he will have to delay his plans... that was really unnerving, but it couldn't be helped.

"Let's do this, Furball," Ryan said. "Watch the left side because I will focus only on hitting their eyes."

Furball barked in agreement. Since the ocean was on the right side and for some reason, the Giant Crabs weren't in that area, Ryan didn't have to worry about that direction. Regardless, Ryan began to fire his bolts, and even though he needed a few seconds to aim, he always hit the scorpions' eyes.

Several of the scorpions had fallen when some of them finally found Ryan. In the end, despite their high endurance, Ryan could easily cause critical damage when his foes were that close to him. Although his firing speed could increase a lot more if he uses Perfect Aim, Ryan couldn't use all that much mana frequently. There was no telling what might happen if he goes too far when a dragon was inside of him.

"I am not draining your mana right now, so you don't have to worry about me. If you die, I will disappear as well since I lost my original body."

Ryan confirmed that fact by watching his mana bar. Still, he decided to keep playing it safe. Most dragons were prideful creatures, but that one easily abandoned its body to survive. So, in Ryan's eyes, it was clear that the beast could try to trick him at any moment.

"You are indeed paranoid. You already know some humans that are working with dragons, so you already know that they can only work together if they agree by signing a contract. Right now, you are only a shelter for my spirit. While I can drain your mana to keep my conscious active, I can't do many other things. If you die, I won't even be able to fight back."

"Shut up, I didn't ask," Ryan said impatiently.

"Just threaten me as if I am your conscience. I am sure you will feel less bothered that way."

"If I wanted to listen to conscience, I wouldn't be here with Furball fighting against hordes of monsters," Ryan said.

"That is true, isn't it? Although you are the perfect host for me, you are a very troublesome human."

Ryan took a deep breath to calm down and resumed his job of slaying those scorpions. Fortunately, the annoyance in his body decided to shut up. However, the number of scorpions was too high, so they got close enough to fire their poison spells. Furball dashed toward them while dodging the projectiles and began to kick the monsters' left and right. Even though his strength wasn't higher than the monsters' endurance, his massive weight helped him with that.

Since those creatures' dungeon wasn't in the area, Ryan and Furball finished the fight rather quickly. Fortunately, some monsters even survived the fight, but they didn't have a happy ending. Ryan used them to create some magic items. Arrows could create a poisonous cloud when they hit the targets, but since they were basically useless while Ryan has the Pestilence Crossbow, Ryan created some magic items for Furball. Those were essentially spiked knee and elbows pads that increased his pet's Poison Resistance.

"You have a weak spot for animals, huh? What is the point of creating that when your ward can never truly die?"

"What is the point of you saying anything, given that I will never listen to it?" Ryan asked.

"You hold your stupidity in such high regards? I am impressed..."

"For a parasite, you sure can talk big and act smug," Ryan frowned.

That kind of conversation was getting tiring, and unfortunately, Ryan had no way of avoiding it. He didn't want to let a fucking dragon say whatever she wants inside his head. Ryan felt the need that he had to put the beast in her place, even though that was probably a massive waste of time.

"Let's just ignore this fucking bitch, right buddy?" Ryan said and then patted Furball's head. "Anyway, go and eat a little bit. Someday I want you to reach the strength that will grant you the chance to fight damned beasts like her."

Fortunately, the iron carapace of the monsters becomes quite weak once the monsters die. So, Furball didn't have a hard time eating the scorpions. As for the status they granted him, they increased his recovery. That was very nice, so Ryan decided to take his time while Furball eats.

Since Ryan didn't have anything better to do, he created several battle machines. Since they took so little space, Ryan was thinking of putting some of them inside the tier one dungeons he might find along the way. While that seemed good and all, the problem was opening the path toward the last part of those dungeons since most of them already broke three or four times. Another problem was that they were starting to take more space inside his rings than the iron ores... Ryan really had to put them to good use as fast as possible.

After a while, Ryan noticed that Furball's recovery wasn't increasing as fast as before... which was weird. Ryan tried to find an explanation for that, but he didn't find it. Maybe the monsters' level was an issue, just like the level of the dungeons they came from.

"You are correct, but the more he grows stronger, the harder it will be to increase his status by eating monsters."

Ryan sighed when he heard that... even when the dragon was useful, her voice didn't sound even a little bit less annoying.

Chapter 316

Ryan and Furball eventually reached Uruguay. A small country was located between Brazil and Argentina. While that wasn't such an important detail, Ryan couldn't help but notice and think about it because he only found Iron Scorpions on the borders. Weirdly enough, they seemed to be marking the border's position since their number was pretty high, and they were forming something like a wall.

"This is weird... but if a dungeon master can create several dungeons on the same planet, that would explain the high number of scorpions," Ryan concluded.

"You are correct. Not even after four dungeon breaks, a single monster species was supposed to be this numerous. In the distance, I can only find the presence of those scorpions."

Ryan never asked, but the ice dragon always used that kind of situation to interrupt Ryan's monologuing. He thought of stop thinking, but Ryan couldn't do that. He already speaks too little since Furball doesn't speak human language, so if he decreases that amount even further... Ryan was afraid that he would start to speak out loud every single one of his thoughts.

Regardless, even though the vegetation around the border was pretty tall, Ryan would be found by hundreds of scorpions once he starts the fight. Moreover, since the scorpions were some sort of barrier, their movements will alert the others. In the end, that will start a pretty long fight. Just relying on critical damage wouldn't be enough since Ryan needed some time for each shot.

"I can help you with that."

Ryan ignored the ice dragons' words. As if he would accept the help of a monster that hadn't been tamed or summoned by him. Regardless, Ryan prepared his explosive arrows since it was high time to use them.

"You will help me move around, buddy," Ryan said to Furball. "You are strong enough to fight them but not enough to defeat more than one at a time. Once your mana and recovery increase a little, we will consider buying you an area of effect spell."

Furball barked in agreement. Without wasting any more time, Ryan used Arrow Shower and made magic arrows rain over dozens of scorpions. While not a single one of them died, they suffered some damage and found him. As soon as that happened, Ryan began to charge Power Shot.

"You really like to use that skill, huh? What will happen once you find an enemy that will manage to seal that skill?"

"That is none of your business," Ryan replied.

Once the scorpions got close enough, Ryan fired an explosive arrow, and the explosion made several scorpions spin in the air while others died. The number was a bit smaller than Ryan predicted, but that was fine since he finished them off by firing Electric Bullets. The damage caused by those surprised him a bit more, so Ryan began to fire them with his left hand.

Suddenly, just before his magic projectiles could hit some monsters, the scorpions became statues of ice. When the Electric Bullets hit them, they died instantly... it looked like thunder and ice were a pretty good combination.

You obtained 110 coins.

You obtained 110 coins.

You obtained 110 coins.

...

“If you accept a small clause, I can...”

“No,” Ryan interrupted the ice dragon.

While it was weird that Ryan received all the coins considering that he wasn't the only one who caused damage, he wouldn't complain about it. He jumped on Furball's back, and his partner began to run away from the monsters.

When a massive number of them got close enough and began to fire their poison projectiles, Ryan fired his Power Shot and decimated hundreds of scorpions. Those in the front line and those in the back lines got caught in the explosion and didn't have time to react. Despite that, some Poison Bullets still hit Ryan, and the points hit started to burn. While he wanted to level up his resistances, it was meaningless if the pain prevents him from aiming accurately. So, Ryan used Purification.

“Dragons aren't the bloodthirsty monsters that you think... most of them are, but there are some like Orgar, Garr, and me that use our heads and don't let our instincts and thirst for power blind your judgment. While I think that you have all the rights to hunt us down, you can't kill every single one of us indiscriminately.”

“You don't have to worry about that. I only killed those who tried to kill me first,” Ryan said. “I may be a killer who took many lives, but I am not a monster like you guys who killed those who couldn't even protect themselves.”

“What makes you think that I did that? You already know that I was in the area killing the ice golems, and while their level was high, it was because I let the dungeon breaks happen so they could make me stronger faster. I didn't kill a single human.”

“You tried to kill me,” Ryan said.

“I already apologized for that; I mistook you from some individuals that are hunting dragons like me. I don't know who those guys are, but they managed to slay many dragons despite the difference in strength. I heard that some of them have the backing of some dragons, but others don't and still can

defeat us by using some techniques. I felt the smell on you, the smell of someone who defeated many dragons. Considering that any ordinary human wouldn't have a real need to look for the ice golem's dungeon, I assumed you had come to kill me."

"That is a very convenient excuse," Ryan said.

"All right, I give up. I can't convince you using normal means. So, I will save your life once, and we will be even, right?"

"I would rather die than owe my life to a monster," Ryan said after shrugging.

"In that case, I repay the debt by giving you knowledge. That is something that you want more than anything else. Do you wish to refuse that as well?"

Chapter 317

Ryan sighed, and then he shut up. Instead of talking, he resumed his job of slaying iron scorpions. Receiving help or knowledge from someone he wanted to slay was too risky, so it was better to ignore everything the monster says.

"Let's see... it looks like you don't know anything about the dungeon masters. While I didn't confirm anything either, I have some hypotheses. If my guess is right, the dungeon masters are trying to make the level of their dungeons reach level one thousand as soon as possible. That is why monsters are killing each other."

It took a lot of effort, but Ryan managed to avoid falling for the bait. He was very interested in that topic, but he didn't ask any questions. Regardless... it made sense. At first, Ryan thought the monsters were only fighting against each other because they wanted to be the new dominant Earth species. While that also made sense, it didn't explain some creatures' behavior that sacrificed their pawns without a hint of hesitation.

"Staying silent won't make you less interested in the subject. Regardless, another one of my guesses is that once the dungeons reach level one thousand, the dungeon masters will be able to come to your planet and display their true power. Their minions will also become much stronger as well."

That wasn't something Ryan had thought... However, it also made sense. Ryan knew very well that monsters and bosses could level up, so it was evident that their strength wasn't at the peak when he defeated creatures like Cerberus and Fenrir. Still, there were some weird things about the system... why can humans go to other worlds and display their full strength while the dungeon masters can't do the same on Earth? Was it because the mana level on the planets was different? Orgar did mention something like that before...

"Just like Orgar and Garr, I want to know why we don't have our memories before we suddenly appeared on your planet. However, unlike them, I decided to build my power alone while hunting the ice golems. I didn't find a suitable human to be my host, and I didn't want to believe that creatures like you had that much potential by yourselves, but I was wrong... you defeated me, after all. Even though you had to rely on potions and other items... even though you wouldn't have a chance in a fair fight."

"You sound like a sore loser..." Ryan frowned.

Putting that aside, it looked like some parts of the puzzle were finally starting to appear. Although Femradiel could read Ryan's mind, and she could have made up that whole story to fool him, he doubted that was the case... everything made too much sense. Besides, it wasn't like he had to do anything for her after obtaining those pieces of information.

"Now we are even."

"Who said that you could decide that?" Ryan asked.

"I know that you have a strong sense of responsibility. You wouldn't try to kill someone who gave so many pieces of information you have been looking for such a long time, after all."

It wasn't very pleasant, but she was right... Ryan hated unfairness. He couldn't withstand offer less to other people when they offered so much for him. Although Femradiel tried to kill him, at least she saved him a lot of time. Besides, he survived without losing a single limb, so Ryan didn't feel like complaining too much about it.

"Now that we are even, we can proceed with the contract."

“I won’t sign any contract,” Ryan declared.

“But we are even!”

“So what?” Ryan asked. “That doesn’t mean that I need your help with anything else or that I should help you with your problems. As far as I am concerned, I don’t need to do anything else aside from letting you go without trying to kill you again.”

“... You are the first human I have talked to, but I must say if all of them are as difficult as you... then perhaps your species deserves extermination.”

“Well, let’s let the survival of the fittest do its magic,” Ryan said. “Anyway, you can go now. You have my word that I won’t kill you. Begone, sayonara, hast la vista, adios, até nunca mais, labas.”

“As much as I want to find a better host, I can’t. As I said before, I need mana to reconstruct a functional body. Without one, I can’t choose a new host. You will have to deal with me for a while longer.”

“... I guess I am going to follow the plan A: find a way to exorcise you out of my body,” Ryan said after biting his lips in annoyance.

For a few more minutes, Ryan’s speed of killing monsters increased, but soon he calmed down again. He could only get angry for so long, after all. Regardless, just as usual, the monsters only chased him for a while. After a certain point, they just retreated and reassumed their positions.

“I don’t think those are tier three monsters, so maybe I shouldn’t waste my time here,” Ryan said while rubbing his chin thoughtfully. “Shall I fly above the country and then move on to Brazil? I also don’t think that it is a good idea to leave so many enemies behind.”

Ryan was collecting his loot and selling everything straight away when they were useless to him while thinking about what to do. Given what Femradiel just told him, it would be better if Ryan just ignores that country and explore the Brazilian coast as fast as possible and then return to his country. The next

step would be to exterminate all the monsters in a foreign world and then become a dungeon master. However, Ryan felt that there was something off about Uruguay... if a dungeon master really had decided to create several dungeons of the same type in a country, it wouldn't be a good idea to leave without knowing why.

“What do you think, buddy?” Ryan asked Furball.

Chapter 318

In the end, Ryan decided to study that country for a while to see if there were some reason as to why a single dungeon master spawned several dungeons in such a small country. Still, he decided to talk with Mark about the things that he heard.

“That is the summary of the things,” Ryan said after giving his report. “Although I think most of it makes sense, I wouldn't go as far as blindly believing in the words of a dragon.”

“I see. I will try to talk with Alissa and Orgar about this and ask their opinions,” Mark said. “Regardless... now you have a dragon inside of you as well, huh.”

“You talk as if I had decided to let a parasite enter my body,” Ryan frowned.

“Shall I ask Alissa and Orgar about this matter?” Mark asked.

“No... I will find a solution on my own,” Ryan replied and then ended the call.

Ryan sighed, and then he started to wonder as to why Alissa and Orgar didn't try to exterminate all the monsters of a foreign world. Certainly, it would take some time and effort, but she had the skills to make something like that easier. Still, knowing her, it wasn't surprising that she would avoid such a tedious job.

Soon afterward, Ryan began to fly over Uruguay, trying to see anything weird. After studying the areas where the monsters were more concentrated, Ryan found four dungeons, and as expected, all of them were spawning Iron Scorpions. However, aside from that, Ryan didn't find anything weird... no, he

noticed just a single thing that seemed suspicious. Even though the monsters never fought, their level increased the next day. To confirm that Ryan didn't just imagine things, he hunts them down for another day and waits for the change to happen. Just as he had expected, they leveled up the next day as well.

"Orgar said that monsters could level up by absorbing the mana from the environment, but this speed is too weird..." Ryan furrowed his eyebrows.

"If you get close to the dungeon, I might confirm something. My guess is that dungeons make the areas around them similar to the planets of the dungeon masters. The dungeons probably do that using mana, so even if the monsters don't do anything, they probably emit some of their mana and enact change to the environment... while the effect of the monsters of a single dungeon might be weak, if you put several of them around the same area, the effect will multiply and thus affect all the monsters, even if they are from different dungeons."

Ryan frowned when he heard that. For an oversized lizard, Femradiel sure was quick to come up with some hypothesis that seemed pretty accurate... or maybe Ryan was just too dumb. He was the type who would rather choose to fight against a horde of monsters without thinking too much about it, instead of fighting a few troublesome ones, after all.

Still, Ryan didn't even have to approach the dungeons to see that the Femradiel hypothesis was correct. Although only four months had passed since the monster's arrival, Ryan couldn't see a single sign of asphalt or of the roads of that country. The tall grass had engulfed everything that was shorter than one meter in length.

"So, my guess was right... at this rate, the leveling up the speed of those monsters will only increase since more of them keep spawning and then also emit more mana because they obtain more mana when they level up. It is impressive. A dungeon master found a way to reach the level max of the dungeon as fast as possible without having to fight against other monsters."

"Stop reading my mind, unless you want to become my enemy again," Ryan furrowed his eyebrows.

"It is not fair if only me share some intel. You don't speak often, so I have to read your mind to learn more about this world. However, if you sign a small clause, you can make sure that I won't be able to read your mind."

“I won’t sign anything. You can look for other idiots to scam,” Ryan said.

“I am starting to wonder how come Orgar never tried to eat you alive... he doesn’t seem a very patient dragon.”

Putting such matters aside... Ryan didn’t want to spend too much time in that country just to obtain the chance to get some tier two classes. Unfortunately, he couldn’t leave the dungeons alone either. That would be too favorable for the monsters. The country was becoming more and more like their planets, after all.

“I guess it is time to use my battle machines,” Ryan nodded to himself.

Battle Machine Lv 13

Health: —

Mana: 340/340

Stamina: —

Mana Bullet: Causes sixty-five points of damage upon contact.

Cost: 05 mana

Range: 80 meters

Recovery: 1300

Durability: 60/60

Although disappointed Ryan that some machines' status increased a lot, such as the damage while others increased too little like recovery, it was enough for the time being. Besides, the skill will level up the more he uses it in combat.

“That is quite a boring way to solve this problem without overexposing yourself. I have some alternatives.”

“Keep your contracts and clauses to yourself,” Ryan said.

It was getting dark, and it was the perfect moment for a surprise attack. Even better that night, the moon was out, so the chances of the monsters finding the battle machines while they fly around were quite low. Even if they find them, what could the scorpions do? Their ranged attacks were passed on poison, and poison couldn't work in inorganic foes.

Still, before using them with Telekinesis, Ryan had to see how many of them he could make it fly at the same time. While he could make objects that weigh eight pounds fly while spending only one point of mana per second, it doesn't mean that he can control forty objects that weigh only two pounds.

Chapter 319

In the end, Ryan discovered that he could control around fourteen objects at the same time. However, he managed to find a way to overcome that problem. Using Earth Manipulation and Earth Transformation, he created something like a simple cage that could store fifteen of his battle machines. As long as he has mana, he can control fourteen of those. It consumed more or less one hundred points of mana per second, but now Ryan had under his control fourteen 'flying battleships,' and each one had fifteen battle machines.

“You sure had an interesting idea, but I think you could have made some adjustments and thus make everything more efficient. The design of the cages is brute as well.”

“No one asked you anything,” Ryan said. “Why are you giving me advice for design and efficiency? You are a dragon; you always try to overpower your foes with brute strength.”

“Are you different?”

It was funny that Femradiel could compare humans to dragons. Ryan didn't know if she was stupid or if she just respected Ryan that much. Either way, it didn't matter. It was an unfair comparison. Unlike dragons, Ryan wasn't stupidly durable. Overpowering his enemies before they could find him was more of a way to increase his survivability than a way to boost his ego.

Regardless, when night fell, Ryan made his 'airships approach the first line of defense of the iron scorpions. As expected, since he took his time and was careful, the monsters never noticed their approach, and when they did it, several of them had already been killed by the battle machines.

"This is much better than I predicted," Ryan frowned while his mana was being recovered at a stupid speed.

Dozens of monsters were killed in a matter of seconds, but eventually... The battle machines ran out of mana, and the scorpions began to fire poison at them. While the airships could fire now and then and eliminate some scorpions, it didn't seem like a bad idea to attack that sporadically. So, Ryan made them fly skyward and return to him before he could run out of mana.

"Let's see... they can fight for a full minute without stopping, but outside combat, they have to wait for 150 seconds for them to reach their total amount of charge," Ryan nodded to himself. "They killed eighty-seven monsters, so by using them, I can kill twenty-five scorpions per minute."

While that was impressive, given that Ryan didn't lose a single machine and he didn't fire a single arrow, he didn't feel that impressed or satisfied. It wasn't a lot of progress, given that he had to defeat a good number of monsters that four dungeons spawned over four months.

"It would be great if they could use my mana, but things aren't that convenient," Ryan opened his skill list and then checked what his options were. "My mana recovers much faster during their first barrage of attacks, so I have to put all that mana to good use."

The most obvious answer would be to use Summon Golems. However, they were too noisy. In the end, Ryan decided to use Crazy Shot... it was the only way to spend a lot of mana fast while also making good use of his high dexterity. While he wouldn't be able to be that stealthy, sacrifices had to be made.

After the battle machines were fully charged, Ryan approached the monsters and then used Crazy Shot. Some of them died while the vast majority put their eyes on him, but they saw the airships moving skyward and then bombarding them with Mana Bullets when they approached. In the end, the second fight ended much faster than the first one, and the second wave of enemies was pretty far behind.

“It is a little better, but it can be improved even more,” Ryan said.

“You are really greedy, aren’t you?”

Ryan ignored Femradiel and just moved toward the next group of scorpions. He fired Crazy Shots in one direction while his battle machines finished things on the other side.

“Let’s split up, buddy,” Ryan said. “You will carry some two of those on your back and approach the monsters. Don’t attack them. Just let the machines do the hard work. In half an hour, find me in that direction.”

Furball nodded. Although the cages were a bit heavy, he could transport three of them just fine. So, while he headed to the left side, Ryan went to the right side and began to slay iron scorpions like a death machine.

“Now this is much better,” Ryan showed a relaxed smile while he killed scorpions with his crossbow with the help of the combat machines.

Ryan felt as if he had created some killing bots. If the combat machines just had some mobility... they would be perfect. Suddenly, Ryan had a crazy idea... What if he uses Summon Golem and installs a combat machine in each of them? He probably could put two on each shoulder!

“You sure have some interesting ideas... not only will you give some mobility to those weird machines, but you will also increase their firepower. Impressive.”

“I have my moments,” Ryan shrugged. “Just don’t think you will gain anything by flattering me.”

After a while, Furball finally joined Ryan. Although he had some poison marks on his body, those were getting smaller by the minute. Ryan told him to continue his work at his place while Ryan started to summon some golems. At the same time, he used Earth Manipulation to connect the battle machines with their bodies. Soon, after he gave them the order to head north and engage with all the monsters, they find along the way.

“Now I just have to do this for a few hours, and they should be able to do cleaning for me,” Ryan smiled confidently. “While scorpions and golems are both long-range tanks, the battle machines will give a massive advantage to my side. I can’t imagine them losing this.”

Suddenly, Ryan had another idea... What if he uses Seal on the battle machines? It looked like he was inspired that night.

Chapter 320

Much to Ryan’s disappointment, he couldn’t use Seal on his battle machines. It was only natural since they caused fixed damage per level. Regardless, Ryan managed to focus on summoning golems and equipping them with battle machines for the rest of the night, thanks to it.

“I guess this should be enough,” Ryan said while nodding in satisfaction.

“Are you really fine with that? You won’t obtain a single coin unless you are close to the monsters. From my point of view, you are wasting a good chance to obtain some powerful items and skills.”

“Why do you care if you are not losing anything?” Ryan asked. “While you are correct, I can’t have everything I want. If I had enough time to fight for coins, I would do it, but my goal right now is to explore the continent as fast as possible. Sacrifices need to be made... which reminds me, monsters like you can obtain coins, how can you use them considering that you can’t enter dungeons?”

“We can transform the coins into mana, and we can also use them to upgrade our skills.”

It looked like the system in which the monsters worked was more complex than Ryan thought. Still, it seemed pretty convenient. Humans can obtain classes that grant them skills and statuses. While

monsters can eat monsters to gain status, recover mana with coins, and level up their skills... It seemed pretty balanced. Which was bad since humans from the very beginning were weaker than monsters.

“You can obtain that power too if you accept to become my partner.”

“Nice try,” Ryan said. “While I am interested in your system, I am not willing to sacrifice half of my life for you. Besides, I have been doing great so far, so I don’t need the conveniences of another system.”

“Yeah, I can’t deny that. Losing one hand certainly can be considered as doing great. Almost getting captured by a Cerberus was also a fine example of that. Let’s not forget that you were also rescued when you defeated your first dragon.”

While that annoyed Ryan a little, that feeling quickly disappeared and gave place to a slight surprise that she didn’t mention the moment Lucia and the others died. Mentioning that would be a low blow, but it was within Ryan’s assumptions.

When morning came, Ryan began to fly above the country and saw his creatures killing the scorpions. Much to his surprise, even though he was kilometers away from them, he received the coins of those that he could see. Even better, while Ryan had created hundreds of them, he didn’t notice a decrease in their number.

“I’m almost there... so I guess I will stay here until I have enough coins,” Ryan said.

Ryan almost had twenty million coins, and he wanted to see what he could buy with them. In the end, Ryan only had to wait for a few minutes since his golems and combat machines were so efficient that Ryan was thinking about using them in the future for auto farming.

When Ryan opened the dungeon shop, he finally noticed one thing. Despite the fact that he had so many coins, he never saw skills like Fire Breath being sold. After he checked the most expensive ones, he understood why. It was because he couldn’t buy skills that cost more mana or stamina than he currently has.

Magic Upgrade Tome

Effect: it grants you the power to upgrade magic items even further. The limit of times you can upgrade a weapon is equal to the skill level divided by five. To upgrade a type of weapon, you need to use the soul of a monster of the same type.

Cost: 100 mana

Price: 20.000.000 coins

In the end, Ryan found the tome he was looking for, and the price was just what he had expected. Without thinking too much about it, Ryan learned the skill. While it would take a while for him to be able to upgrade his items more than once, everything had to start with a single step.

“I guess I can use the scorpions to upgrade the Pestilence Crossbow,” Ryan muttered to himself. “I need to see how much the items become better, after all.”

In the end, Ryan just had to find a single monster that his golems missed along the way. After knocking down the creature with some Electric Bullets, Ryan used Magic Upgrade. In a sense, the spell was pretty similar to Seal since it used monsters' souls to upgrade magic items.

Pestilence Crossbow (+1)

Effect: Consumes twenty points of mana to create a poisoned bolt. Dexterity + 82, intelligence + 55

Extra Effect: Each bolt can cause the value of your intelligence as magic damage during five seconds. Hitting the target with other bolts will also increase the damage of the poison by eleven percent.

Durability: 84/84

“Interesting...” Ryan rubbed his chin thoughtfully. “Overall, the most important parameters of the crossbow increased by ten percent. While durability only increased by five percent... if I use this skill several times and reach level forty... I guess it isn't hard to imagine Katelyn defeating a dragon without classes.”

Ryan didn't have many weapons that could poison his enemies, but he managed to upgrade Furball's gear and even increase his special arrows' power. Regardless, Ryan decided to move on because he was more and more getting invested in that skill. If he isn't careful, he was afraid that he would stay there for days just leveling up that skill.

Resuming his journey toward North-East, Ryan eventually arrived in Brazil, and he couldn't help but frown since the very first city he found was completely walled. While there weren't many survivors in that place, they were easily killing the iron scorpions that were heading toward their camp.

"Nothing to see here... moving on," Ryan muttered.

There weren't any powerful monsters around so that Ryan wouldn't find any tier-three dungeons as well. In any case, while he was flying along the coast, Ryan found another walled city after flying for an hour... the same thing happened again and again. Until when he found the tenth walled city, Ryan decided to stop.