

## Domain 341

### Chapter 341

Instead of attacking pretty much whenever possible, Ryan held back a little and then only attacked when the slime tentacles got too close to him. Electric Enchantment helped him more than he thought, but even so, there were no slimes for Femradiel to kill, so he had to be a bit conservative for the time being.

“Do you want me to use Zen for the time being?” Femradiel asked.

“You can do whatever the hell you want...” Ryan said while he was running around the big slime. “Just don’t interfere directly in the fight.”

Femradiel nodded and began to use it for the time being while she waited for the next slimes to appear. While Ryan had some potions to use, he decided to keep them in his ring and rely only on his natural regeneration to fight. For a while, his bolts and Electric Enchantment had been enough to put the slimes’ arms away from him, but suddenly, the paralyzed arms grew others smaller arms that moved toward Ryan.

“That is creepy...” Ryan frowned.

In the blink of an eye, Ryan grabbed his Paralyzing Spear and hit those smaller arms. As expected, due to their size, they were weaker, so he managed to block them. However, soon the big slime gave up on that and began to fire slimes through its mouth. Even Femradiel would have a hard time blocking them from such a close distance, so Ryan began to run away from the creature while he spun his spear and stopped the monsters.

“What is this smell?” Ryan frowned.

When Ryan turned around, he saw his spear leaving a poisonous cloud, not only by poison slimes. His weapon had also been hit by corrosive slimes. Ryan couldn’t understand how come a creature that could create so many types of slimes only send the weakest ones toward Earth, but that was a question for later.

“This isn’t going well,” Femradiel said. “It is only a matter of time before something unexpected happens, and that takes us out of the picture. You need to defeat the dungeon master faster.”

While Femradiel was blocking the slimes that were being used as cannonballs, she could only do so much while using Ryan’s skills. If she uses her own skills, the problem could be easily solved, but Ryan didn’t want that kind of victory.

“I am trying to think of a way to do it,” Ryan said. “I just need some time to think about a good plan.”

“Clearly, thinking isn’t your forte,” Femradiel said. “You should rely more on my power.”

“Thank you for your kind words and awesome support,” Ryan said. “You are indeed an ally any human would want to have.”

While the poisonous effect was causing damage to the slime, it was only decreasing it one point of health per second. As for the raw power of his bolts, they were only causing more or less one hundred points of damage... at that rate. Even if he uses all his potions, Ryan won’t kill the monster fast enough.

Ryan stopped his attacks for a second and only ran around the monster while he was thinking about his options. His magic weapons wouldn’t last long if he uses them alongside Telekinesis, so that was a no. While the dungeon master had eyes, it was only some spheres that had no vital value for the creature’s body, so Ryan couldn’t hit those waiting to cause critical damage.

“I guess I will return to the basics...” Ryan said and then sighed.

“What are you planning now?” Femradiel asked.

“I don’t want to spoil the surprise,” Ryan said.

Suddenly, Ryan stopped running and began to fire his bolts at the monster’s face, but then when the creature opened its mouth, several frozen arrows were fired towards it. Somehow, they exploded and managed to freeze the creature’s mouth, and Ryan smirked when he saw that. Not a single slime could leave that hole for a few seconds.

Ryan took out all his explosive arrows from his ring and then clustered them together before make them fly toward the monster's mouth. The arrows exploded, and a massive and powerful shockwave almost made Ryan fly backward.

"You are pretty nasty..." Femradiel said.

"Shut up. Results are results. It doesn't matter how you obtain them," Ryan said.

Ryan had to use his stock of explosive arrows, but he wasn't worried about it, he had planned to use them as soon as possible, but the opportunity never appeared. Regardless, when the dust cloud began to disappear, Ryan was several hundred meters away from the big slime and already charging a Power Shot. However, for some reason, the slime was paralyzed. The explosion destroyed a good part of the monster's body and decreased its health up to forty-five percent, but even that couldn't explain why the creature was paralyzed.

"It looks like the explosion made the core tremble, and that affected the monster quite a bit," Femradiel said.

"Ah, that is right... slimes' have cores," Ryan said. "Well, not that I can hit the core when the body of the monster is corrosive and so large."

Ryan had an idea, while even his magic weapons probably wouldn't penetrate that body and resist the corrosive effect for long, what would happen if he creates some magic arrows that have the same corrosive effect? Won't they resist the body of the monster? It seemed like a pain in the ass to create those in that kind of situation, but there plenty of slimes in that place the dungeon master had been. Perhaps some dozens of them would be acid slimes.

Before Ryan could make up his mind, the dungeon master suddenly trembled, and in the next moment, hundreds of slimes appeared between Ryan and the monster. Those creatures began to move toward Ryan. Some of them even exploded to give some boost power to the others to reach Ryan faster. Femradiel tried to hit them as fast as she could, but the numbers were too much.

Ryan flew to the sky only to see the dungeon master summoning more and more slimes each second, and once again, the slimes began to explode and make the other slimes fly toward him.

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

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

Rank: 201th

Health: 1259/1259 (3,59/s)

Mana: 1951/1951 (3,59/s)

Stamina: 1699/1699 (3,59/s)

Strength: 31 (+166) (+130)

Dexterity: 1900 (+1401) (+82)

Speed: 85 (+647) (+48)

Intelligence: 81 (+580) (+3)

Endurance: 28 (+131) (+160)

Control: 06 (+699) (+10)

Mentality: 08 (+36) (+30)

Luck: 74 (+15)

Recovery: 800 (+1025) (+330)

Willpower: 30 (+36)

Coins: 2.236.441

Status: 00

Skill List

Offensive Physical Skills: Paralyzing Arrow Lv 01, Spiritual Poison Lv 01,

Passive Physical Skills: Zen Lv 07 (+ 06 UP), Underwater Resistance Lv 01,

Spells: Draconic Transformation Lv 01, Frost Armor Lv 01, Ice Breath Lv 01, Magic Bow Lv 01, Elemental Nature Lv 01, Summon Skeleton Lv 22 (+ 21 UP), Explosive Poisonous Arrow Lv 01,

Support Skills:

Classes:

Combat: Sage Lv 56 (+ 02 UP), Summoner Lv 36 (+ 04 UP), Poisonous Archer Lv 01,

Non-Combatant:

Race: Centaur, Lesser Dragon

Chapter 342

Even with all his mobility, the slimes still chased him using their own weird method to fly. That wasn't so bad, Ryan decided to fly around and wait for some magic items to be dropped and use them as disposable weapons in that fight, but weirdly enough, the monsters didn't drop anything.

"Why they don't drop anything?" Ryan frowned.

"Your luck is just that bad," Femradial replied.

Regardless, instead of just running away, Ryan asked Femradial to use Arrow Shower on the slimes while he flies around the dungeon master and attacks him with his bolts. The stupid monster was creating the perfect environment for Ryan to recover his mana endlessly, after all.

Unfortunately, the situation escalated to a point in which Ryan didn't imagine. The numerous slimes began to fire magic at him. While most of them missed him, the attacks decreased the Arrow Shower's power, and thus he wasn't recovering much mana anymore.

"What is the next plan?" Femradial asked. "I am certain that it will be another innovative idea."

Ryan sighed since Femradial was getting too comfortable and being sarcastic too often. In any case, he had an idea, but he didn't know if it was innovative or not, but it made him smirk.

While escaping the rain of magic projectiles, Ryan began to fly low while he was looking at the sand. Fortunately, he found what he had been looking for pretty easily... some iron ores. Using Telekinesis, he picked all of them and returned to the sky. After a few seconds, several battle machines landed at the top of the dungeon master. As expected, they got dissolved by the monster, but the most important part, which was the cannon, only was dissolved when they ran out of mana. In the meantime, they caused a lot of damage.

"While that caused some damage, it didn't cause as much as you wanted," Femradial said. "What now?"

"You are so impatient..." Ryan said. "That was just a test. It looks like some monsters have resistance against attacks that can cause direct damage to their health points, do you know the name of such skill?"

“It is called magic armor and decreases the damage of spells of the neutral attribute,” Femradial explained.

That skill probably could also work against Power of Money, not that Ryan was planning to use it in the first place. That fight had already been won even before it had started, and Ryan only noticed that now.

In just a few minutes, the dungeon master recovered ten percent of its total health. While Ryan didn't do anything to prevent that, he managed to save his mana by flying around and evading the slimes that tried to attack him. In the end, the cavalry finally appeared... as if they were mad dogs chasing something, some of the skeletons Ryan created in the last week appeared and dashed toward the dungeon master... it was really convenient that even the old ones could grow stronger and faster while the skill level up.

The slimes attacked the skeletons, and they succeeded in stopping the skeletons from attacking the dungeon master, but not before they threw the battle machines toward the big monster's body. Some slimes tried to destroy the battle machines before they could enter the monster's body, but Ryan stopped them.

“I don't think so,” Ryan said and then used his crossbow.

It would be great if they could all show up at the same time, but since the skeletons head in different directions at different points in time, that was impossible. Even so, they managed to cause quite a scene when they appeared in small numbers. The number of slimes chasing Ryan even decreased.

Upon noticing that those battle machines were bad news, the dungeon master used its arms to stop them from hitting its body. While that worked, Ryan solved that issue by using Telekinesis.

“I can't understand the appeal of defeating an enemy like this,” Femradial said. “Just charging Power Shot would be equally boring and efficient.”

“You forget that my goal here was only one, know more about the dungeon masters' powers,” Ryan said. “While I made the fight a bit more difficult in order to get used to them, it would be a waste not to use the resources that I created over the last week.”

In the end, Ryan didn't have to do much to make the dungeon master's health decreased to ten percent of its max. However, something changed when that happened. The monster began to shine, and Ryan knew what was about to happen...

"It looks like everyone can do that these days," Ryan clicked his tongue in annoyance and attacked the monster with his bolts.

Femradiel also helped Ryan even without asking his permission, but there wasn't time to complain. Unfortunately, the slimes formed a barrier and protected the dungeon master.

A few seconds later, the monster exploded. Ryan used his shield to protect himself, but much to his surprise, he wasn't hit by a massive wave of acid. Only some small slimes hit his shield. The dungeon master had split itself into thousands of parts. However, the surprise didn't end there... when the slimes fell on the ground, they began to devour the others.

"Holy crap... that is disgusting," Ryan frowned and then began to make bolts rain over the slimes.

Making good use of Firing Posture and Rapid Shot, Ryan killed dozens of slimes every second. However, it didn't look like he was making much progress. The boss's main body was starting to recover its size again in the middle of that sea of slimes.

"Focus on attacking that," Femradiel said. "I will deal with the small ones."

Ryan attacked that mass that was growing while Femradiel killed the small fries. While that was working, it wasn't also working. All what they could do was to prevent the creature from growing even further. Some skeletons were on the way, but it didn't look like they will arrive on time...

## Chapter 343

Ryan got annoyed that the fight was dragging for too long, so he decided to go all out. Using Telekinesis, he made all his frozen arrows fly toward the slimy thing that he was attacking. While that caused some damage and froze the monster for a few seconds, it only served to Ryan gain a few seconds. Fortunately, he used those well. Instead of using it with Power Shot, Ryan made his Paralyzing Spear spin until it could make a small tornado behind it. After that, he fired toward the monster.



When the dungeon master got hit, all the smaller slimes were paralyzed for a second. Ryan used that change to enchant his bolts with Electric Enchantment, and he also fired Electric Bullets with his left hand. All the slimes stopped moving, and Femradiel used that chance to pick up the pace... in the end, the dungeon master finally fell.

You obtained 5.392.741 coins.

Congratulations! You have reached the rank of the 200 strongest humans! Keep clearing dungeons and defeating monsters to raise your rank, and you might receive some nice rewards!

Current Rank: 191st

You obtained: Water Creation tome.

Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Water Creation.

Effect: It grants you the power to create the water element, and it also increases the power of all water attacks by one percent per level.

You obtained 01 status point.

“Phew... finally,” Ryan sighed and then relaxed when all the slimes in the area suddenly exploded like bubbles.

While it was a pity that Ryan didn't obtain the coins by defeating them, he only felt bothered by the fact that he didn't receive a single notification informing him that he had become a dungeon master. That was... worrisome.

“There is something in the place where the slime was recovering its final form, you should check it,” Femradiel said.

Ryan flew toward that place only to find a single red crystal. It seemed identical to the purple ones, aside from the color, and the thing was glowing. Ryan used Appraisal on it, but it didn't work. It looked like he had to touch it... After hesitating for a few moments, Ryan touched the crystal and saw some options and notifications.

You have defeated the previous owner of this crystal; you have the right to claim it and have access to all its resources and options. However, since you are a member of another species, you will have to abandon your status as a human to claim ownership over the crystal. Do you wish to become the new dungeon master? Y/N.

"Crap... this damn thing isn't something I can take to Earth," Ryan said. "Moreover, it is even asking me to abandon my status as a human. What else this fucking crystal will ask me? To become a unicorn?"

"That would be a pretty interesting command," Femradiel said. "Regardless, why don't you accept it? You can still return to Earth; you just won't have the rights of a human anymore. Considering that you have the blood of so many monsters inside you, I can't see the problem."

"Even I have things that I don't intend to let go no matter what," Ryan said. "My humanity is one of them."

In the end, Ryan didn't accept, but fortunately, he still could use the purple crystal to some extent. He saw that the big slime was sending slimes to three other planets. Their names were quite weird and certainly weren't on the solar system. Regardless, the monster only sent the weakest species to Earth, and Ryan could still make the dungeon work for some reason.

"It looks like anyone can mess with this crystal, but only the dungeon master can change some features," Ryan said. "I want to hide this, but anyone powerful enough to come to another planet will have the skills to find this."

In the end, all the slimes of that world died when the dungeon master died, but Ryan didn't obtain the means to become a dungeon master. Not without a cost, at least. While Ryan obtained some rewards, he still felt that he wasted his time since he didn't reach his primary goal. While there were probably some other ways to become a dungeon master, they wouldn't be any less difficult.

“Might as well look for the dungeons in this planet and get some classes since I am already here,” Ryan said. “Femradiel, can you tell me the location of the nearest dungeon?”

“Here is the thing, even after all that flight, I didn’t feel a single presence of a dungeon,” Femradiel replied. “You can keep looking to expand or radius of search, but I am pretty sure there isn’t a single dungeon in this planet.”

“Really?” Ryan frowned.

“Think about it, why would someone bother to conquer this place?” Femradiel asked. “There is nothing here aside from this massive desert and the slimes. My guess is that the monsters invaded this world many years ago and it ended up like this.”

Ryan nodded at that. While Earth has seen better days, it still was many times better than the slimes’ world. Besides, fighting against slimes probably wouldn’t be useful to any species. As for humans, they could become strong pretty fast with some diligence.

“Well, if it is like this, it is time to go home, then,” Ryan shrugged. “This mission ended much sooner than I expected... Furball must be tired of licking the corpses of slimes, so let’s hurry.”

“Before I forget this, you can learn Mind Armor,” Femradiel said. “Do you wish to learn it now? The sooner the better, right? That way, you will have a lot of time to level up the skill, you will just have to ask someone to use Appraisal on you.”

That was true. The problem was who Ryan should ask that. He hated to owe favors to others, after all. Regardless, while he was thinking of a solution to that problem, Ryan left that world behind and returned to Earth.

Chapter 344

Congratulations! You learned the skill Mind Armor.

Effect: decreases the effects of skills that can affect your mind and completely nullifies the effect of identification skills at your mana's cost.

You obtained 01 status point.

"I also need to train Water Manipulation," Ryan nodded to himself after he learned his new skill.

"Given the added power that the skill gives, maybe I should focus on that kind of attack for a while."

"If you interested in adding more power to your water and ice attacks, there are some skills that I can teach," Femradial said. "Hydromancy and Cryomancy will increase the power of those attacks and make you reach the next level at controlling that element."

"I won't learn it for free," Ryan said. "Still, I don't which skill pick next, so if you gain enough mana and convert to make enough coins, you can tell me once that happens."

"That will take a while unless you began to hunt monsters more seriously," Femradial explained. "Those skills are the next level of Water Creation, after all. With them, you can control water and ice even without touching them. Not to mention, the added power."

Ryan nodded. Following the usual pattern, it was easy to assume that they would cost around one hundred million coins. There were so many other skills he could learn with that amount. Then again, in that kind of situation, half of the skills Ryan could learn were limited to Femradial's knowledge.

After leaving the dungeon, Ryan found Furbal taking a nap at the entrance. It didn't seem like he had finished his job a long time ago, so Ryan didn't feel much guilt about it. Now, to the next step...

"I need to go North, cross Canada, Alaska, and then reach Europe," Ryan concluded. "I need to find more tier three dungeons while I look for another way to become a dungeon master... but first, I have to talk with Alissa and connect her to the telepathy link."

"I can feel a powerful presence on that base, it must be her," Femradial said.

“Let’s get going, buddy,” Ryan said. “You are going to carry me while I train my new spells.”

Furball barked and then nodded when Ryan jumped on his back. Once again, the trip hasn’t been comfortable given his partner’s speed, but at least Ryan managed to reach the place in just a few hours and even managed to train and learn several things about his new skills.

“Not even with Water Manipulation, Water Transformation, and Water Creation I can learn spells that easily,” Ryan frowned. “There must be a matter of talent and experience when learning it. Let’s try to solve the question with speed and simplicity.”

As far as Ryan knew, all spells had a very short activation period, so perhaps that was what he was missing. Still, he couldn’t be fast with any spells. That was why he decided to start by creating and firing Water Bullets as fast as possible. Even while he failed in receiving any notification of a new spell, he still managed to level up Water Creation.

Regardless, Ryan’s experiments had to be stopped when he reached the base. At first, he thought about it sharing the things he learned in the slimes’ world, but would that help anyone? Ryan couldn’t imagine many people aside from those who had the power of dragons would be able to defeat dungeon masters. In fact, it would be quite an accomplishment just to go to another world and survive a few days.

“Look who has appeared,” Alissa said when Ryan showed up at the meeting room. “It looks like you made some friends while you were away. Your social skills haven’t grown all that rusty, it seems.”

“Did Mark explained to you what I learned on my journey?” Ryan asked.

“Yes, what about it?” Alissa asked.

“Those guys I met in Brazil used a spell that created telepathic channel and they decided that they want to talk often with people like you and me,” Ryan explained. “I wanted to ask if you are interested.”

“If it is just about exchanging intel, I don’t mind,” Alissa said. “What I can’t understand is why you made a contract with a dragon. Knowing you, I thought you would rather eat shit than obtaining the power of someone else.”

“While you are not wrong, our situations are pretty different,” Ryan said. “I didn’t have a choice at the time and another solution would take too long. Besides, I am not using her powers and I don’t intend to use it at all.”

“You really are stupidly stubborn,” Alissa sighed. “But at the very least, you look calmer now, is it because you have the power of an ice dragon? Did you get it? You are cooler because of an ice dragon.”

“Whatever, just shake my hand and you will be connected to the channel,” Ryan said.

“Before that, let’s talk a little bit more,” Alissa said. “You disappeared from my Radar for a few days, did you go to another world? Are you really that interested in becoming a dungeon master?”

“I just want to know more about the powers of my enemies,” Ryan shrugged. “Regardless, you are right, but the mission wasn’t fruitful. To become a dungeon master in another world, I would have to abandon my status as a human. I don’t know if that would change my body or something, but I didn’t accept for obvious reasons.”

“So, it is like that, huh,” Alissa rubbed her chin thoughtfully. “I didn’t mention before, but I know a way of how to become a dungeon master without sacrificing anything. Do you want to know more? I thought you wouldn’t ever reach at a certain level of power, but I guess I underestimated your potential... you can definitely reach that power level.”

“How?” Ryan asked.

“You just have to become one of the one hundred strongest humans on Earth,” Alissa said. “Once that happens, you will obtain a domain stone. That item will give you the power of a dungeon master.”

Chapter 345

“That easy?” Ryan frowned. “So, that means one hundred humans can become dungeon masters? No, the number can constantly increase...”

“Yes, that easy, but you are wrong,” Alissa said. “Use Analysis on this.”

Alissa suddenly made a weird light-blue rock appear out of nowhere. It didn't have a specific shape, so aside from the color, it looked like an ordinary rock. Although it was weird that Alissa didn't use it, that was a question that could be answered later.

### Domain Stone

Effects: It gives the user the chance to create dungeons in other worlds after paying a certain cost. It gives the user the power to select up to ten bosses to guard the dungeon and a single species of monsters to spawn from the purple crystal. It grants the user the chance to obtain all coins that his minions obtain. The user can gain one coin per second multiplied by the dungeon level, and once the dungeon reaches its level max, the user can summon himself on the world where the dungeon is located and show its max power. Once the domain stone is set, the user can't leave its boundaries, unless a temporary dungeon master is put in their place. The domain can be expanded at the cost of mana and coins, and while inside your domain, the user, their minions, and allies gain a boost of one hundred percent in all status.

Cost: only the one hundred strongest humans can use this item. If a dungeon master loses his position among that group, their power will disappear, and the stone will be given to another.

"That is a pretty long description..." Ryan frowned. "Is there a reason why you didn't use that item? You can make one of your lackeys to take your place temporarily."

"They are my soldiers, not my lackeys," Alissa said. "I considered the idea, but I fear that unless I accept that task, I might put the planet in danger. Can you imagine what might happen if a dragon somewhere makes a pact with a being in a world where a put a dungeon and that using the dungeon to come?"

"I guess that could be problematic," Ryan said. "Still, it is weird that you are being this considerate."

"I am being considerate because of my soldiers," Alissa said. "While the last options interest me, I don't know how much mana and coins I will need to increase the perimeter of the domain, so I decided to keep the stone stored and use only in the future. It is not like I am in a dire need of coins, after all."

That was true, but it was also confirmed that Alissa was losing a golden opportunity. If one considers the level of the dungeon and the number of coins the dungeon masters obtain every single day, it was

insane the number of magic items or potions they could obtain. Not only that, what if the dungeon master succeeded in dominating another world through the power of their dungeon? Maybe they will obtain some other and perhaps even better benefits.

“Unfortunately, this item can’t be traded or sold, so you will have to get your own,” Alissa said.

“That was my idea from the very beginning,” Ryan said.

“So, what is your plan now?” Alissa asked.

“Keep doing the same thing, as usual, those are the best ways to increase my rank, after all,” Ryan replied. “Since there is no dungeon around here that can give me tier-three classes, I am going to check other areas.”

“Aren’t you interested in getting all classes possible on the continent?” Alissa asked.

“That would take too much time, leveling up those classes also would take too much time,” Ryan explained. “I will focus on increasing my strengths as fast as possible.”

“That is just like you, I guess,” Alissa shrugged. “So, you are going further north? If that is the case, I must warn you that the climate up North is much more intense than you remember, there is a massive snowstorm there that doesn’t move and that one can freeze almost anything.”

That picked Ryan’s interest, and while it was dangerous, Ryan was confident

that he could withstand the cold. Thanks to Femradiel stupidity, his Cold Resistance leveled up a lot. In the end, Ryan didn’t feel the need that Ryan would go West after going North.

“I guess this is a goodbye,” Alissa said. “I want to keep training my guys for a while longer before risking exploring unknown lands. That is fine I guess, with this telepathy link I can bother you whenever I want.”



“You forget that this link is like a telephone, for two to use it, one has to start the call and the other has to accept it,” Ryan said. “If you get carried away and I will ignore all your calls.”

“If you do that, who is going to give you daily updates about the situations regarding Zoe and Arthur?” Alissa asked with a smirk on her face.

“I don’t need daily updates; I am not a stalker...” Ryan sighed.

As expected, Alissa was as handful as ever. In any case, Ryan left the base and began to run North alongside Furball, but much to his annoyance, Alissa already made a call using the telepathy link. Ryan thought of ignoring it, but perhaps Alissa forgot to mention something. So, he accepted it.

“I will talk to you later,” Alissa said. “I just forgot to say that.”

Ryan sighed, and before he could say anything, Alissa ended the call. Ryan stood corrected... Alissa had become even more handful than before. While that was a bit troublesome, it looked like her lackeys were a good influence on her. Maybe Orgar’s worries were unfounded.

“What do you think about the massive snowstorm Alissa mentioned?” Ryan asked.

“If it is caused by a massive area of effect spell, you will be all right,” Femradiel replied. “Those cost a lot of mana and the farther you stay away from the eye of the storm, the less cold you will feel. Even if it isn’t caused by a spell, that rule still applies to it.”

## Chapter 346

Since Furball was getting stronger by the day, Ryan began to think that perhaps he should create a wagon or a carriage for him to pull. While he was fast, sitting on his back was too uncomfortable while he ran. Then again, a carriage being pulled at one hundred miles per second probably wasn’t the most comfortable place in the world.

After traveling for a full day without stopping, Ryan and the others finally reached the border, and he saw a lot more snow than he saw last time. Based on what Alissa told him, it was safe to assume that the weather and the path won't improve.

"As expected, the cold isn't bothering me anymore," Ryan said.

"While Cold Resistance decreases one point of damage per level, it also increases the temperature in which your body can withstand without getting sick or suffering from some issues," Femradial explained. "Every ten levels, your resistance increases by one degree."

Considering that, it looked like he could survive some pretty harsh weather conditions, not like he wanted to put them to test. Regardless, even in Canadian territory, Ryan didn't find many monsters, and since he was heading North-West, he passed pretty far away from the Dire Wolves' dungeon.

Thanks to the snow, Furball's speed decreased a little. Since the terrain was also tiring him out pretty fast, Ryan decided to take a break when the sunset. There was no telling what they would find from that point onward, so it was too risky to make Furball work too hard.

"Can you sense traces of Alissa's mana round, Femradial?" Ryan asked. "I want to know if they have explored this far in the north."

"No, I felt traces of her mana earlier, but you left them behind already," Femradial replied. "If I had to guess, she made her soldiers walk a lot around these parts. That is why they didn't explore the area all that much."

Since that was the case, Ryan couldn't understand why he didn't find a single monster until now. Unless they are ice golems, it would be unreasonable to expect any monster to live so close by the snowstorm that Alissa mentioned. There was another possibility, but in all honesty, Ryan didn't want to think about it because if it were true, that would be very troublesome.

While Ryan had a map, the snow from that point onward was so deep that he was having a terrible time finding any landmarks or plates informing the names of streets or towns.

The situation became even more troublesome around noon of the next day. Ryan finally found the snowstorm ahead; the thing was so massive that he could see the end of it while looking to the sides. The strong wind was also decreasing his visibility.

"I guess this is it," Ryan said. "What are you sensing, Femradiel?"

"A lot of mana... but strangely, this snowstorm wasn't caused by a spell," Femradiel replied.

"Some other unknown factor caused it, and it is making the snowstorm not lose strength."

"Can you sense anything specific inside of it?" Ryan asked.

"No, as I said, there is too much mana in there," Femradiel said. "Enough even to block my tracking skills that have never been good from the very beginning."

Ryan wasn't the type to run away from a challenge or an unanswered question, so his only option was to pass through the snowstorm. The question was: could Furball endure the cold winds? His cold resistance was only at level fifty, after all.

"I guess I will make some new items that will increase your cold resistance, buddy," Ryan said. "Just hang in there for a little bit, okay?"

Furball barked in agreement, and after a few more minutes, they finally entered the range of the snowstorm. The visibility decreased exponentially, and Ryan barely could see Furball's head a few meters ahead of him. Ryan activated Radar and immediately picked the presence of some monsters.

"Ah, I get it now," Femradiel said. "The snowstorm is being caused by the presence of the Frozen Whisperers. I suggest you use your crossbow without relying on your eyes alone. Rely on Radar to attack."

While Ryan wanted to do that, he wanted for one of the monsters to approach before doing anything and then when he saw a weird creature that seemed like a frozen ghost appear, Ryan used Appraisal.

Frost Whisperer – Lv 180

Health: 2250/2250

Mana: 3500/3500

Stamina: 1000/1000

Strength: 250

Dexterity: 500

Speed: 300

Intelligence: 1200

Endurance: 500

Control: 300

Mentality: 800

Luck: 250

Recovery: 1500

Willpower: 800

Coins: —

Status: 00

Skill List

Offensive Physical Skills: Freezing Touch Lv 130

Passive Physical Skills: Focus Lv 120, Concentration Lv 100

Spells: Snowstorm Lv 120, Frozen Aura Lv 100

Support Skills: Cold Resistance Lv 300, Wind Resistance Lv 100, Earth Resistance Lv 50

The Whisperers didn't have physical forms, adding to the fact that their faces seemed frozen and lacked any emotion, Ryan decided to consider them ghosts. Those creatures created a small frozen tornado whenever they passed, so Ryan understood and recognized the fact that Femradriel's guess was correct.

As if they were made of thin glass, the monster's body began to crack when Ryan hit it with his bolts, but while the monster wasn't that resilient, the cold wind could quickly repair the damage caused by him.

"Let's see how you fare against this," Ryan said and then fired some Electric Bullets at the creature alongside his bolts.

The monster began to melt and crack and eventually died, but as expected from a mob monster of that level, it caused a lot of problems.

You obtained 140 coins.

"It looks like you will have a lot of work ahead of you," Femradriel said. "Unless you find a way to kill those creatures as fast as possible, you will stay here for a while."

As usual, when Femradiel wasn't helpful, she would say something that would make Ryan frown or get on his nerves. Regardless, Ryan began to use his head and find a solution to that problem.

## Chapter 347

It wasn't much of a solution, but Ryan learned that he could paralyze the Whisperers by using a paralyzing spear and then finish the monsters with his bolts.

"Are you feeling the snowstorm letting up?" Ryan asked.

"Are you joking?" Femradiel asked. "You seriously think that by killing a few dozens of them, you would make any difference? If there is a dungeon at the eye of the snowstorm, you can imagine the number of monsters spawned since the very beginning, adding the others that came out with the dungeon breaks."

Just by thinking that he would have to face four months' worth of spawned monsters, it was enough to make Ryan feel like sighing. Hopefully, all that hard work will grant him a tier-three class. It was hard to imagine that a low-level monster could change the weather so much while receiving his arrows.

"Femradiel, but against this type of monster, I can't be very helpful," Femradiel said.

"It is fine," Ryan said. "It is not like I was counting on your help anyway."

"You always know the right thing to say in order to annoy others," Femradiel let out a long sigh.

Ryan changed his focus when he noticed that Furball was starting to tremble. The cold was finally getting him... without wasting any time. Ryan stored his set of equipment that was good against poison and then made an exact copy made of iron. After that, he began to knock down the Whisperers with Electric Bullets. While that took him some time, Ryan had been patient enough to create a full and even upgraded then up to plus two since his kill could do that.

"Maybe I should create some set of defensive items for me as well," Ryan muttered. "It will be better to have them than need and not to have them."

While he was in the best weather to create magic items, Ryan decided to make use of Seal and Magic Upgrade since Furball wasn't trembling anymore.

"Before deciding anything, I should test and seal their souls in several types of equipment," Ryan concluded.

"I don't know if you are diligent or just stupid to think of forging magic items in moments like these," Femradiel said. "While you are at it, why don't you improve your attack power?"

"If that could be done easily, I would do it," Ryan said. "Do you have something in mind?"

"More or less," Femradiel said. "I think you should create some mini crossbows and use them on each arm. As long as you choose the right design or a better one you can make, then fire even more bolts, and perhaps you will just need to pull the trigger and hold it to keep firing."

"... While that is an interesting idea, it isn't something a newbie can easily create," Ryan said. "Well, fighting at night in this weather will be suicide, so that I will experiment with your idea later."

Ryan more or less could imagine what Femradiel had in mind. While that was something he should have imagined earlier, creativity wasn't one of Ryan's strong points. However, now that he obtained certain skills, Ryan will have to train his creative muscles. He once again recalled that relying only on drops wasn't something he should do. It was hard to know if he had been lucky or unlucky when the subject was drops, but Ryan was fairly certain that he should get a better weapon at least once every week, and his crossbow was something that he obtained more than one month ago.

"Given that the number of dragons is decreasing, I can't rely on them to get new items or forge new ones," Ryan concluded. "That is why I need to keep leveling up Seal and Magic Upgrade."

Maybe one day, Ryan will even be able to control his weapons' effects and status. He was talking with a dragon inside of him, after all, so the sky was the limit. Regardless, since it was a bit hard to see what time it was in the middle of the snowstorm, Ryan decided just to kill the monsters for a few more hours before taking another break. To make his camps easier to set, Ryan would need some tools, so Ryan decided to make them that day as early as possible.

Camping in an open space would be crazy, so Ryan created an underground shelter. Fortunately, the wind was so strong that Ryan didn't even worry about making a campfire inside his shelter. Even if they feel or find the smoke, the whisperers will never be able to pinpoint where Ryan and the others would be.

"While I was the one who gave you the idea to improve your firepower, are you sure that you can take your time doing that?" Femradiel asked. "You are in the middle of a snowstorm created by a large number of monsters in this part of the continent. Moreover, the monsters aren't something you can't eat."

"Food is a problem, huh," Ryan nodded. "Furball can even eat the rest of those things, so he is fine. The problem is me."

While Ryan still had some food, it was pretty scarce. These days food wasn't something that he cared much about since the variety wasn't that great, and pretty much everything he could find that wasn't monster's meat had passed their expiration date.

"Well, since that is the case, I need to hurry here," Ryan said, and then he began to analyze the structure of his crossbow. "Hopefully, I will be able to customize these new magic weapons up to a point where they will become useful in many different situations."

To create the design that Femradiel had mentioned to Ryan, he will have to miniature his weapons. However, miniaturizing what he couldn't understand was impossible, so he had to start with baby steps. In any case, given that to create magic weapons, Ryan would need the monsters' souls, he probably won't be able to use them to deal with the monsters around that area. However, that certainly will make him gain a lot of time in the future.

## Chapter 348

Thanks to auto-production, Ryan managed to create a replica of his crossbow even that night. However, the replica wasn't usable since the original required mana to be used. Now Ryan just had to use Seal and transform the replica into something that could be used and then sell it since there was no sense in creating a weapon enchanted by ice against ice-type monsters.

"Now, I just have to miniaturize it," Ryan said. "Well, I will do that later."



“I feel like I should have some knowledge that could help you in the creation of magic items, but I probably lost that knowledge when I came to this world,” Femradiel said.

“Really? Dragons don’t look to be a species that would forge many things,” Ryan frowned. “Well, that is fine. Even if you had the knowledge, I probably wouldn’t be able to use it right now.”

After leaving the shelter, Ryan jumped on Furball’s back and then began to move again. Some Frozen Whisperers tried to block their path, but since Ryan had a certain idea during the night, they failed at harming him and Furball.

Furball fired Electric Bullets like a machine gun and paralyzed the monsters. After that, Ryan destroyed the monsters with his bolts. While Furball wasn’t much of a beast that uses magic attacks often, Ryan still bought a tome for him, and it seemed like his idea worked fairly well.

“Nice work, buddy,” Ryan patted Furball’s head. “Let’s continue like that, but first... let’s store their bodies inside my magic ring for you to eat them later.”

Frozen Whisperers became thin shards of ice when they died, so they didn’t take much space inside the spatial ring. Thanks to Furball’s support, Ryan managed to advance much faster than the previous day. However, just as he had expected, the number of encounters began to increase, and soon their movement speed decreased again.

“What are you going to do about this?” Femradiel asked.

“I can’t ignore a dungeon that broke four times in this continent,” Ryan replied. “If the dungeon keeps breaking, eventually, this massive snowstorm will probably take over the entire North-America. Not to mention, it will become an even more difficult problem to solve.”

Ryan won’t be able to reach Europe or even Asia at the speed he had planned, but that couldn’t be helped. His main goal was to keep slaying monsters, after all. While that was the case, Ryan couldn’t just accept that he would have to hunt those monsters for weeks... he had to find a better way to hunt those monsters efficiently.

“Can you pinpoint the exact position of the dungeon?” Ryan asked.

“Yes, you will find the dungeon if you correct your course slightly to your right side,” Femradial said. “You probably know that you are going to find a massive number of monsters protecting the dungeon. How do you plan on taking care of them?”

“I guess the summoned monsters that I can use won’t be of much help in this weather, so the battle machines won’t be useful as well,” Ryan rubbed his chin thoughtfully. “Well, I will come up with a plan eventually. It isn’t the first time I have to deal with an army of monsters.”

While it was the first time Ryan had to deal with a dungeon that broke three times, he wasn’t much worried about the danger, only about the time he was going to waste there. Call it overconfidence, if you will, but Ryan was tired of getting overly anxious when he faces those kinds of problems.

The monsters managed to delay Ryan for three days, but eventually, he found the dungeon in the eye of the storm. That being said, part of him wished that he hadn’t seen it.

Congratulations! The skill Cold Resistance has leveled up.

Congratulations! The skill Freeze Resistance has leveled up.

While trembling from head to toe, Ryan felt that he was about to become a human statue of ice. If it weren’t for several skills that he had, he and Furball would never have reached that area. Regardless, this time the dungeon was really located in the middle of an ice mountain. The visibility was pretty good given that the winds were moving around a few hundred meters behind Ryan, but Ryan couldn’t even see any snow or the ground beneath him in exchange for that. Only a thick layer of ice could be seen.

“I like this place,” Femradial said. “I wish I could have built a fortress-like this.”

By fortress, Femradial talked about the ice mountain that could even be compared with a massive ice castle. Not only that, the castle even had some royal guards, and they looked quite rough.

Ice Crystal – Lv 200

Health: 20.000/20.000

Mana: 30.000/30.000

Stamina: 5.000/5.000

Strength: 100

Dexterity: 5000

Speed: 200

Intelligence: 10000

Endurance: 5000

Control: 2500

Mentality: 7500

Luck: 500

Recovery: 15000

Willpower: 7500

Coins: —

Status: —

#### Skill List

Offensive Physical Skills: Freezing Aura Lv 150

Passive Physical Skills: Mind Boost Lv 150

Spells: Ice Cannon Lv 180, Ice Spear Lv 170, Absolute Zero Lv 120

Support Skills: Cold Resistance Lv 350, Wind Resistance Lv 150, Fire Resistance Lv 50

Ice Crystals were creatures that didn't have a humanoid form. They were just that... ice crystals that had the size of golems. Despite that, they even could use the best skills that Femradiel has.

“The level of the bosses keeps increasing,” Ryan furrowed his eyebrows. “Their numbers also increased with the fourth dungeon break; I can count four hundred bosses. What about you, Femradiel?”

“I can feel the presence of 417 of those creatures,” Femradiel said.

Ryan sighed when he heard that... it was hard to admit, but it looked like the number of bosses spawned in each dungeon break was directly related to the dungeon level. While that was a problem, the real problem was that each of those monsters had more or less half of a dragon's strength. So, to clear that dungeon, Ryan will have to defeat something like two hundred dragons... and what scared him was the fact that he was pretty excited about it.

#### Chapter 349

After he studied the bosses around the dungeon for a while, Ryan noticed one thing: as soon as the Frozen Whisperers spawned, they hurried to leave the dungeon. The cold in that area was so powerful that even they were suffering damage thanks to it. Those creatures were hidden outside the eye of the storm, where the visibility was annoying, to say the least.

Even though the bosses seem like inorganic creatures, I can't underestimate them. They probably can control the whisperers to some extent," Ryan said.

"How do you plan on dealing with them?" Femradiel asked. "Let your back unprotected against so many of them might be dangerous."

"Thank you for your valuable insight, captain obvious," Ryan said. "I need to make some tests, but I guess I will use the battle machines to keep the perimeter safe."

While Ryan would rather use summoned creatures to fight because they obeyed all his commands, the battle machines could be useful in a situation like that. After doing some tests, Ryan confirmed that they operated following different rules since they weren't organic machines. They didn't rely on eyes to find their targets. Instead of that, they felt the presence of their targets by using mana. Thanks to it, even hidden underground in the snow, they still could attack the whisperers and cause a lot of damage pretty fast. Thanks to their range, they also could attack much earlier than the whisperers could find them. The only real issue of that strategy was that Ryan had to collect iron ores for two days to set up hundreds of battle machines in a perimeter of five hundred meters away from the dungeon.

"Now, I just need to find a way to kill those bosses before they kill me and before I freeze to death," Ryan said.

"Ryan, are you busy now?" Gustavo asked via the telepathy link.

"Yes... what do you want?" Ryan sighed.

"If you are too busy, we can talk later," Gustavo said.

"I will be much busier later, so just spit it out," Ryan said.

"First of all, I would like to thank you for helping Alissa and Lucas join our group," Gustavo said.

“... Please, don’t tell me that you just called to tell me that,” Ryan sighed again. “Just go straight to the point if that isn’t the case.”

“Right, I wanted to ask if something changed around the coast of your country,” Gustavo said. “We were already having enough problems with that dragon slayer, but now we are also constantly attacked by a new species of monsters... they are the giant turtles. Their numbers are pretty high, and their endurance rivals the dragons.”

“I am currently pretty far away from my country and from the ocean...” Ryan said, imagining a dungeon that could spawn such troublesome creatures every one hundred seconds. “Did you talk with Alissa about that?”

“No, she barely uses the telepathy link or accepts calls of others,” Gustavo said. “She must be someone busy. That is why I decided to talk to you.”

“What are you trying to imply?” Ryan frowned. “Whatever, I will alert her, and she will alert the people in my country.”

“Right, if your people don’t find those creatures, I also would like to ask for some assistance,” Gustavo said. “Of course, we will pay those you might send.”

“I will talk with Alissa about that too, but you shouldn’t expect much. We are even more short-handed than you are,” Ryan explained.

The call finally ended, and Ryan let out a long sigh... he already had too many problems, and he even had to hear that kind of thing from others. Still... to think that a new troublesome monster would suddenly begin to spawn in the ocean.

“Come to think of it, why were you hiding in the ocean when I first saw you, Femradiel?” Ryan asked. “How come the megalodons didn’t attack you?”

“Their population has been decreasing as of late, so the ocean is more or less safe for dragons like me,” Femradiel replied. “I don’t know the reason, though.”

Since Ryan didn't intend to hunt monsters in the ocean anytime soon, that mystery didn't bother him all that much. While having such blind spots behind might be a risk, it couldn't be helped since there was only so much Ryan could do alone.

"In my draconic form, you should be able to fight in the ocean relatively well," Femradiel said.

"I don't plan to fight underwater, and I don't plan on using your powers to solve such small problems," Ryan said. "Rather than that, focus on the mission ahead of us."

"I want to focus, but honestly, I can't imagine you defeating so many of those creatures in such a limited space," Femradiel said. "Just like your battle machines, those creatures can sense traces of mana so that magic traps won't be useful. Following the same logic, poison won't work either."

Ryan already knew that, but he still wanted the opinion of someone who might have a different perspective. Still, as expected from Femradiel, since she was a dragon, her best plan of action was to overpower her enemies or not to fight when the victory seemed improbable.

In the end, Ryan understood that he was unfair to Femradiel. It was a bit too much that she would give him a good idea as to how to defeat four hundred bosses by himself, considering that each one of those bosses should be defeated, in theory, by twenty-four people.

Ryan didn't have a proper skill that would let him defeat all those monsters by himself... directly at least. He will have to improvise quite a bit... Ryan hesitated at first since he feared that by changing his tactics, he might win, but not without relying on the things his father taught him. However, in the end, Ryan found the middle term... the perfect method to fight against those bosses while keeping his ideas in mind. Ryan decided to create some ballista...

## Chapter 350

While Ryan never built anything as big as a ballista, he knew more or less what he should do. Essentially, they were just massive crossbows, after all. Besides, Ryan felt better doing something practical, just thinking of a crazy strategy to defeat the bosses while keeping his head in the right place.

“Are you sure this is going to be fine?” Femradiel asked. “You just have two more weeks before the fifth dungeon break... you are betting a lot on this time-consuming plan.”

“You don’t have to worry about it,” Ryan said. “As you can see, I am the type who does many insane things, but I already lost a hand before trying to face an enemy stronger than me, and I learned something thanks to that.”

“Which is?” Femradiel asked.

“Preparation is the key,” Ryan replied. “Humans are naturally weak, so we need some external help to defeat certain types of foes. Potions won’t help me this time; summoned monsters won’t be of any use as well. So, this is the best solution I can think of.”

Ryan was transforming earth into steel and then creating the first ballista parts he wanted to make. Since he wasn’t a designer and he didn’t have a blueprint, he ended up making a lot of mistakes, but little by little, his prototype was getting in shape.

“How do you plan to reload this in the middle of a fight?” Femradiel asked.

“I will think about that mechanism once the prototype is complete and I ran some tests,” Ryan said. “Hopefully, you will see something pretty interesting even with the tests.”

Once Ryan got the hang of the proportions of his weapon, things proceeded fairly fast. He just had to make sure the ballista would fire powerful projectiles and not break while it was at it, after all. The last problem Ryan had to deal with was how to make a malleable string. In the end, he somehow succeeded in making some flexible steel strings. Since he put several of them together, Ryan was confident that it wouldn’t break easily. Even better, Ryan had a pleasant surprise when he finished the weapon.

Steel Ballista

Effect: Capable of creating powerful massive bolts that can pierce even steel walls.

Dexterity + 250



Cost: 150 mana per bolt

Durability: 300/300

“What the heck,” Ryan frowned in shock. “Why did it turn like a proper item of the system?”

“What were you expecting?” Femradiel asked. “You made everything with such care that it is obvious that it would become an item. As for the other times you failed, it was probably because the quality of the items was questionable.”

That explanation seemed a bit off. If that were the case, why the weapons he created still could become magic items when he used Seal? Maybe the skill forcefully transformed Ryan’s items into magic items... Now that he thought about it, he never cared about proportion or the balance of the items he created in the past.

“Well... let’s see this bad boy in action,” Ryan smirked.

Moving a weapon like that would be highly impractical, but Ryan didn’t have to do much since he had created the ballista underground. Ryan opened the path to outside again and levitated the weapon with Telekinesis. The weapon was hidden within the storm. It was even behind the perimeters he had set with the battle machines. However, not even that was a problem. Ryan knew perfectly where his target would be.

After adjusting the aim, Ryan held the trigger, but instead of pushing it, he activated Power Shot. Femradiel understood what he was planning... while it wasn’t a bad idea, it was clear that it wasn’t a weapon that had enough firepower by its own to kill in one shot the bosses. Ryan will have to attack with Power Shot many times... to defeat all of them, and there is the chance that he might be find out.

After charging Power Shot for a full minute, Ryan pulled the level and fired the gigantic bolt. The projectile flew so fast that the hissing sound made Ryan dizzy for a moment. Not only that, the bolt opened a hole in the storm that made Ryan see its trajectory. Not that had been necessary.

You obtained 30.000 coins.

The ice crystal hit by Ryan's attack didn't even have the chance to react. The projectile hit it right in the middle, breaking the creature into pieces while at the same time, the massive steel bolt bent quite a lot to the left side.

In a hurry, Ryan returned to the hole and took the ballista with him. At the same time, he covered the place with dirt and snow. It didn't take long for Ryan to feel the monsters thanks to his Radar, but they never found him underground. Probably because they didn't have proper tracking skills, and the snow of the ice was so rich in mana that it worked like a magic barrier for Ryan.

"Perfect, this might take a while, but I certainly decrease by a lot the amount of time I will use to deal with them," Ryan said.

"Are you satisfied with that?" Femradiel asked. "You would feel much prouder of yourself if you fight them using your main crossbow."

"I am already proud as I am," Ryan said. "I can't let my feelings control my actions all that much. That is why I decided to compromise and use a weapon like this. I reached an outcome that I wanted, and I also found a way to help this continent more efficiently."

Ryan could understand why Femradiel seemed unsatisfied or uninterested in such a method to defeat certain foes. Still, it was only because she was a dragon, a being who was born with massive power and vitality. Ryan knew what being weak was, so he would never let his pride get in his way. Not at again, at least...

Regardless, while the monsters were looking for Ryan, he began to work on the creation of his second ballista. He could use Power Shot and use two of them at the same time, so there was no reason as to why he should kill two bosses at the same time.

## Chapter 351

The scene where Ryan made ice crystals go kaboom repeated several times. In the end, they even called the Frozen Whisperers to help, but they never found him. Moreover, whisperers were killed in droves by the combat machines. When Ryan killed the one-hundredth boss, he couldn't help but frown since the monsters didn't change their behavior even a little bit... they were still guarding the dungeon entrance.

Still, at least they were smart enough to correct their position in order to cover the holes created by Ryan's attacks.

"This is odd..." Ryan rubbed his chin thoughtfully. "They are smart enough to control the minions and even to correct their positions, so why don't they use some tactic to get rid of me or at least slow me down a little bit?"

"You shouldn't expect that all monsters can cause you problems," Femradiel said. "They are inorganic creatures, so their level of intelligence is limited."

"Although I know that I was considering that the dungeon master was a sapient being who chose for their minions to be these types of creatures," Ryan said. "If it were me, I would use inorganic creatures as well, since they can't feel pain or fear."

"Maybe you are right, but even if that is the case, it doesn't mean that the dungeon master is someone super competent," Femradiel said. "There is always a chance that their dungeon only broke four times by coincidence."

Ryan couldn't be that optimistic. Still, he couldn't be too cautious either, just because the situation was weird. Regardless, killing one hundred bosses in a single afternoon was more than enough for Ryan, so he decided to call it a day since it started to get dark outside. Despite that, instead of stopping to rest, Ryan began to create an underground route around the dungeon. If something happens, he will use that to escape, and if nothing happens, Ryan could always use that to attack the bosses from different angles.

Although Ryan worked throughout the whole night and used many options and Femradiel's help to increase his pace, Ryan only managed to create a tunnel covering only one-fourth of the dungeon. While the tunnel wasn't big enough for the ice crystals to move, Ryan still decided to be careful and put several magic traps around.

"You are such a worrywart," Femradiel said.

"I think cautious is the correct word," Ryan said.

When morning came, Ryan resumed his hunt. However, when he killed two of the ice crystals, something finally changed... the monsters began to make Ice Spears fall from the sky, and their attack covered the whole area around the dungeon and several hundred meters inside the snowstorm.

Without any other choice, Ryan retreated. Aiming became hard, but he still managed to slay two more bosses. In the end, the bosses finally snapped. Instead of firing Ice Spears downward, they began to fire them toward the horizon. Ryan was so far away that he didn't notice until it was too late... the ice spears hit his ballista, and then immediately they turned into ice and broke into thousands of pieces. Ryan entered his tunnel before he could suffer from the same destiny.

"Back to square one?" Femradiel asked. "That is what you get from relying too much on tools."

"This just a minor nuisance," Ryan replied. "That is something that can be easily solved."

Ryan began to make the other two ballistae, and in the new ones, he put a shield in front of the weapons and only a hole in the middle of them. Ryan made sure to enchant those shields with the whisperer's souls, so the weapon's durability was duplicated. However, When Ryan left his hideout to prepare for the next wave of attacks, the ice crystals still were firing Ice Spears in all directions.

That problem was too easy to solve that Ryan sighed. Maybe he was too cautious due to the force of habit. Maybe there wasn't an unknown force preparing a trap for him while he kills the bosses... Regardless, Ryan prepared for the next wave of attacks after opening a path for him to leave the hideout. After charging Power Shots for a full minute, Ryan used Flash and appeared a few meters above the ground. Since he was touching the ballista and they belonged to him, the weapons also were teleported to midair alongside him. After adjusting his aim with Telekinesis, Ryan pulled the levers and fired two bolts. He prepared to use Flash again, but the Ice Spears stopped from being fired in the place he landed.

You obtained 30.000 coins.

You obtained 30.000 coins.

Ryan decided to attack again before the monsters could react in any way. However, Ryan suddenly felt a shiver and decided to return to his underground shelter alongside his weapons. He used Flash, and half a

second later, the place was sealed when a thick layer of ice covered the whole area and sealed the hideout.

“Absolute Zero...” Ryan sighed. “What a troublesome skill.”

“That skill consumes a lot of mana, so the monsters can’t use it often,” Femradiel said.

Ryan would have to destroy that thick layer of ice before he suffocates, but before that, he put another layer of dirt below the ice in order to keep the tunnel hidden. In the end, he solved that problem fast and solved the problem of the layer of ice even faster by using Water Manipulation and Water Transformation.

However, when Ryan left the tunnel, he found another problem. The problem increased their search range, and even after one hour, they didn’t reassume their positions around the dungeon. They weren’t planning on giving Ryan a chance to attack them again.

“No more surprise attacks,” Femradiel said. “What now?”

“Now I can return to the basics,” Ryan said. “While this is a bit troublesome, it also helps me a little. Let’s see what is more powerful here, my firepower and attack speed or the resilience and numbers of those dumbasses.”

Class: Hunter Lv 69 (+ 02 UP / Elementalist Lv 55 / Monk Lv 16 (-)

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

Rank: 180th

Health: 1309/1309 (3,59/s)

Mana: 2002/2002 (3,59/s)

Stamina: 1779/1779 (3,59/s)

Strength: 31 (+166) (+130)

Dexterity: 2050 (+1482) (+95)

Speed: 85 (+691) (+48)

Intelligence: 81 (+580) (+3)

Endurance: 28 (+131) (+160)

Control: 06 (+741) (+10)

Mentality: 08 (+36) (+30)

Luck: 74 (+15)

Recovery: 850 (+1025) (+330)

Willpower: 30 (+36)

Coins: 12.985.441

Status: 00

Skill List

Offensive Physical Skills: Power Shot Lv 90 (+ 03 UP),

Passive Physical Skills: Eagle Eyes Lv 68 (+ 02 UP), Concentration Lv 68 (+ 02 UP), Archery Lv 68 (+ 02 UP), Accuracy Lv 68 (+ 02 UP),

Spells: Explosive Poisonous Arrow Lv 01, Water Creation Lv 13 (+12 UP), Mind Armor Lv 01,

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

Classes:

Combat: Beastmaster Lv 34 (+ 02 UP), Archer Lv 62, Combat Archer Lv 46 (+ 03 UP), Sniper Lv 39 (+ 03 UP), Weapons Master Lv 19 (+ 03 UP), Sentinel Lv 12 (+ 03 UP), Demon Hunter Lv 15 (+ 03 UP), Ranger Lv 09 (+ 03 UP), Poisonous Archer Lv 04 (+ 03),

Non-Combatant: Blacksmith Lv 25 (+ 03 UP),

Race: Centaur, Lesser Dragon

Chapter 352

“It is finally your time to shine, Femradiel,” Ryan said.

“Are you finally thinking about using Draconic Transformation?” Femradiel asked, and her voice seemed full of expectation.

“Nope, you will shine by using my Telepathy to make mana potions being poured over me,” Ryan said. “If I give you permission, you can use my spatial ring, right?”

“... Yes,” Femradiel said, and she seemed pretty pissed.

“Then, your job will be to use potions,” Ryan said.

Since the ice crystals left their position around the dungeon, it meant that Ryan could enter the dungeon. The only real problem was that he couldn't use Earth Manipulation to reach the dungeon's last part. The very moment he reached the entrance by using an underground route, his magic stopped working on the ground. From that point onward, he will have to show himself to the enemies.

“You sound pissed, but this is an important job,” Ryan said. “Do you want to do something else?”

“Do you think so?” Femradiel asked. “Why would a dragon feel unhappy when being treated like a servant?”

“And you said you didn't have much of your pride left,” Ryan shrugged, “If you think you can do two things at the same time, you can attack with Electric Bullets as well. However, if my mana began to reach a dangerous level, you will have to focus on using mana potions.”

Femradiel had more or less idea what Ryan was planning, but she couldn't imagine that he would need all that much mana. Regardless, she decided to focus as well since there was no telling what might happen, and those bosses would be a problem even in her draconic form.

When Ryan's focus reached the peak, he activated Ranger's Awakening and immediately opened the path above him. When the monsters finally felt his presence, Ryan already was deep inside the dungeon in his firing posture. Like a machine-gun, he began to pull the trigger of his crossbow. In a single second, an Ice Crystal was killed by Ryan when fourteen bolts pierced its body. Femradiel opened her eyes in amazement since she didn't think Ryan could attack that fast.

Ryan selected his next target, and the poor creature suffered from the same fate. However, before the third could fall, the ice crystals began to fire Ice Lances toward him. By using Flash, Ryan avoided them all while he kept shooting, but soon his mana reached a dangerous level.

“Femradiel!” Ryan shouted.

“My bad, my bad!” Femradiel said and finally began her work.



Femradiel made dozens of potions recover Ryan's mana, so he resumed his attacks. That scene repeated itself for a while, and then when the thirtieth ice crystal died, the bosses finally understood that they wouldn't be able to hit Ryan unless they filled the entire dungeon with Ice Spears. No, even if they do that, Ryan can use Flash to dodge all the attacks. Without any other choice, the monsters dashed toward the dungeon, even though the place was too narrow for three of them to pass at the same time.

"I have been waiting for this," Ryan smirked. "It is showtime, buddy!"

Furball barked and then began to fire Electric Bullets. While he didn't cause damage, Furball delayed the monsters for a few important fractions of a second. Now that the bosses were even closer, Ryan could use even more mana, so he activated Rapid Shot.

"Those are low-quality mana potions, you know," Femradiel protested. "Even if I focus on using only that, I won't be able to recover more mana that you can spend!"

"It is all right. Just keep working fast," Ryan said.

The bosses began to die in droves, so Active Spiritual Recovery began to shine again. Moreover, the snowstorm was losing power every time the ice crystals died, so Ryan's vision of the outside was improving, and that gave him the chance to see his battle machines killing some whisperers that were coming to help the bosses. That increased his mana regeneration even more.

Ryan thanked that unexpected event and enchanted his bolts with Electric Enchantment. Much faster than before, the bosses began to die one after the other. Some of them eventually reached the dungeon and entered to attack Ryan. Their presence alone made the area much colder, but in the end, they only became easy targets for Ryan. Those who started to shine and prepared Absolute Zero had been the focus of Ryan's attention, so the situation remained under Ryan's control the whole time. In the end... all the bosses finally died by his hands.

"Man, I love to fight in narrow places," Ryan sighed in relief when the fight ended.

That wasn't something an archer should say, but fortunately, Ryan had the skills to turn such a disadvantageous environment into another weapon at his disposal. Regardless, the job wasn't over since some whisperers managed to pass the perimeter due to their sheer numbers.

“Go play with them, buddy,” Ryan said to Furball while he created some battle machines and put them on his back.

Furball barked in agreement and then left the dungeon in a hurry since the place was colder than outside. It was finally time for the good part: get the loot. Much to Ryan’s surprise, it looked like he had been quite lucky. The drops were pretty high quality, but some of them stood out above the others.

Azure Edge (Ice)

Effect: It freezes the foe upon contact. The ice damage is equal to your intelligence + (200%) per second. Strength + 150, Endurance + 120

Durability: 250/250

Frozen Amulet

Effect: Increases your resistance against all ice-type attacks by ten percent.

Mentality + 40, Willpower + 40

Durability: 30/30

Mystic cape

Effect: When charged with mana, this cape activates a shield to block surprise attacks to a certain extent.

Intelligence + 30, Recovery + 30

Charge: 0/500

Durability: 120/120

The other items were pretty good as well, but Ryan decided to use Deconstruct on them and level up Cold Resistance and Freeze Resistance a little bit more. Hopefully, the weather will get better since he defeated the bosses, but he couldn't bet just on hope.

## Chapter 353

While Furball was taking care of the monsters outside the dungeon alongside the battle machines, Ryan decided to enter the dungeon and claim his prize. Due to the circumstances, he managed to defeat the bosses while ignoring most of the mob monsters. Thanks to it, Ryan felt that the job had been completed too fast and that perhaps that wasn't a tier-three dungeon.

"You should relax," Femradiel said. "There is no way that you will get a crap class after this. How many monsters have you found so far that could affect the weather all that much?"

"None, but only because I didn't find many elemental monsters in dungeons that broke more than four times," Ryan replied.

"While that is a good reason, it is only natural that you can't find certain types of monsters everywhere," Femradiel explained. "While few monsters can choose an element to focus on, most of them have a good talent toward magic, that makes them naturally stronger."

In any case, Ryan's doubts will be cleared once he arrives at the end of the dungeon. Some whisperers tried to block his path, but Ryan didn't have to worry about one or two monsters at that point in time. Ryan's goal was much beyond the dungeon, so once he found the treasure chest, he immediately opened it.

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: Holy Knight, Magehunter, 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.

Ryan got lucky. That dungeon really was a tier-three dungeon. Moreover, Ryan found two new classes. Shaman wasn't interesting for Ryan for the time being. As for Holy Knight, it was probably a class similar to Demon Hunter, but it was for melee fighters.

"Let's see what this bad boy has for us," Ryan said and then chose his next class.

Congratulations! You have become a Level one Magehunter!

You obtained the following skills: Silence, Fool's Curse, and Spiritual attack.

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: Silence.

Effect: It gives you the chance to seal the target's spells. The higher the level of the skill, the chances of the skill to activate.

Cost: 50 mana per second

You obtained 01 status point.

Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Fool's Curse.

Effect: It enchants your attacks with a powerful curse that can decrease the target's intelligence. The effect lasts for five seconds and can stack. The intelligence will be decreased according to the level of the skill. The skill only works with melee attacks.

Cost: 20 mana per second.

You obtained 01 status point.

Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Spiritual Attack.

Effect: It grants you the power to cause direct damage to your target's mana. The damage caused will be equal to the level of the skill. This skill only works with melee attacks.

Cost: 30 mana per second

You obtained 01 status point.

It looked like this class would be very convenient when Ryan finds more of those annoying monsters that focus on using magic. The only problem was that two of them couldn't work with his long-ranged attacks.

"Well, I can't have everything that I want," Ryan shrugged.

"That is awfully optimistic coming from you," Femradiel said. "But I guess that suits you, considering that you always imagine that things will take a wrong turn somewhere."

Regardless, Ryan headed toward the exit of the dungeon and stopped to stock some potions. Just like Femradiel said, those low-quality potions started to become a problem instead of a solution to Ryan. Their effects were too weak now... unfortunately, the dungeon shop doesn't sell more efficient potions.

"Next time I see the Alchemist class, I won't have any other choice aside from choosing it," Ryan nodded to himself. "That class might solve the problem of the potions."

"Shouldn't you talk with your friends at the base and ask them where you can get that class?" Femradiel asked.

"Nah, I don't want to change my course now," Ryan replied. "I already delayed this trip for too long."

There was nothing useful being sold at the dungeon shop, so Ryan left the dungeon only to see Furball still fighting. The snowstorm had lost a lot of power, and thanks to it, Ryan and even the monsters could see much more than before, and that was why Furball was still fighting.

“Let’s get going, buddy,” Ryan said. “We can leave some of those monsters behind for Alissa and her lackeys.”

Furball barked and then obeyed Ryan’s commands. Some Whisperers tried to chase them, but Ryan quickly killed them on Furball’s back.

“I really need to learn spatial magic. Leaving the ballista behind is such a waste, but I can’t get better spatial rings. The cost is that insane,” Ryan said. “Can you use spatial magic, Femradial?”

“No,” Femradial replied.

“Really? Orgar can use it,” Ryan said.

“Some dragons are born with that kind of power. Some don’t,” Femradial said. “While I can learn that by using the system that I have access to, I can’t imagine such a skill being useful in combat.”

“You lack imagination, I guess,” Ryan said. “Well, if you can learn, humans should be able to. It is time to keep saving more coins.”

“What about Cryomancy?” Femradial asked.

“That one I will learn once I give you enough mana, but spatial magic I will buy with my own coins,” Ryan replied. “Those types of skills cost a lot, in terms of price and mana, but I can’t just ignore them.”

Hopefully, by leveling up the skill, the spatial magic will give Ryan a lot of space to store all sorts of things, and hopefully, Ryan will have enough mana to use.

## Chapter 354

While Ryan and Furball had to clean the path a little bit since they found many Whisperers along the way, things were looking good. The snowstorm decreased in power by the day, and the cold was also dropping, much to Furball's happiness. However, when they were crossing Alaska, Ryan found another type of enemy in the distance. Those creatures were a bit different from the ones Ryan saw in some games. First of all, their skin was light blue as if it had changed to withstand the cold. Aside from that, their arms were pretty long, so they kind of moved like gorillas. Some of them had those massive pillars of ice and used them as weapons, and despite their size, which was equal to golems and giants, they were pretty fast.

Ice Troll – Lv 210

Health: 10.000/10.000

Mana: 1500/1500

Stamina: 5.000/5.000

Strength: 5000

Dexterity: 1000

Speed: 2000

Intelligence: 1000

Endurance: 5000

Control: 500

Mentality: 2000

Luck: 500

Recovery: 15000

Willpower: 2000

Coins: —

Status: —

Skill List

Offensive Physical Skills: Bash Lv 180,

Passive Physical Skills: Passive Recovery Lv 150, Steel Skin Lv 120, Improved Strength Lv 100, Regeneration Lv 100

Spells: Ice Pillar Lv 120, Ice Armor Lv 100,

Support Skills: Cold Resistance Lv 300, Wind Resistance Lv 100, Fire Resistance Lv 100

“Things are just getting better and better,” Ryan said with a semi annoyed expression on his face.

“Those look like very troublesome foes,” Femradiel said. “However, it looks like they are just a scout group. I can feel the location of the dungeon a few kilometers in the north.”

“So, I can avoid the dungeon, huh.” Ryan rubbed his chin thoughtfully. “Taking out these guys will take a real while, but there is no mistake that their dungeon is a tier-three dungeon... what to do?”



The fifth dungeon break will happen in less than ten days. Unless Ryan creates some magic items that will use those juggernauts' elemental weaknesses, he couldn't imagine himself winning the fight in that time.

"Well, there is no point in trying to defeat all of them in my head before killing a single one of them in reality," Ryan said and prepared his crossbow. "Let's see how well they fare against poison."

After concentrating for a few seconds, Ryan fired and hit all the trolls with several bolts. The creatures grunted in pain while their health was quickly decreasing. However, they immediately found Ryan, and the poison didn't stop them from charging toward him.

"Yeah, I really need a more powerful crossbow," Ryan said and then began to fire again.

It was a pain since that would consume a lot of his time, but Ryan decided to use Seal on the trolls after damaging quite a bit of their limbs. The skill needed to level up to create more magic items, after all, and that would be the first step for Ryan to obtain a more powerful weapon.

While Rya hoped that the arrows he made would be a bit different due to the trolls' nature, he just ended up creating those same freezing arrows. It was too much work to create them, but Ryan had no other choice in the end.

"Wait... maybe I should tame some trolls," Ryan said. "Unlike most monsters, they can use weapons, so if I equip them correctly, they will become a splendid force."

"That is an interesting idea," Femradiel said. "Still, even if you do that, you will have to train them for quite a while before they can hunt several trolls alone."

"That is where the items will come in handy," Ryan said. "I already have an interesting combination in mind."

Ryan looked for some small group of trolls, and just like before, he attacked their limbs and before paralyzing them completely. Once that happened, Ryan began to use Tame on them. For some reason,

probably because the trolls were more intelligent than most monsters, Ryan had a hard time taming them, but eventually, Ryan obtained five trolls.

“Now you guys should throw away your old weapons and try this,” Ryan said and then gave one of his trolls a usable replica of his crossbow.

Steel Crossbow

Effect: Consumes eight points of mana to create a steel bolt.

Dexterity + 15

Durability: 50/50

Ryan frowned when he saw the trolls trying to put their fingers in the trigger and failing at it... their fingers were too big. After that, Ryan sighed but then laughed. Regardless, it took a while, but eventually, Ryan managed to create a bigger version to be tested.

Giant Steel Crossbow

Effect: Consumes fifteen points of mana to create a steel bolt.

Dexterity + 30

Durability: 100/100

After looking for a while, but eventually found a troll to test against his tamed monster. As expected, due to their sizes, the trolls were much stealthy, but his side still had the advantage of the preemptive strike. However, due to the massive amount of health and recovery the trolls had, Ryan's troll only decreased the target's health by fifty percent. Once the enemy got too close, Ryan gave his troll in order to use their ice club.

“It is a bit worse than I expected...” Ryan rubbed his chin thoughtfully.

Even if Ryan keeps increasing his weapons quality, he could only improve it so much in a few days’ time. Ryan knew that he should enchant his weapons with Seal and use Magic Upgrade to increase its attack. However, the elemental nature of the trolls, Ryan couldn’t use the trolls’ souls. The best option was apparently to enchant the crossbows with thunder element, but Ryan never found monsters with that kind of nature.

Ryan will have to find a solution to that problem without leaving that area, it didn’t seem possible, but he wasn’t going to give up so soon. After all, even though it was virtually impossible to clear the troll’s dungeon before the fifth dungeon break, Ryan at least had to keep the number of spawned monsters under control, and he will use his tamed creatures to do that.

## Chapter 355

In the end, Ryan managed to find two solutions to the problem of survivability of his trolls. The first was pretty cheap. The second wasn’t so cheap. Most of the time, when Ryan uses Seal to create magic items, they ended up getting the elemental properties of the monsters. Still, sometimes that doesn’t happen with some defensive items and accessories. For some odd reason, whenever Ryan created a magic weapon, magic armor, or magic shield, it always created something that had elemental resistance or extra damage with the ice nature. However, Ryan managed to make some items that increased the troll’s overall defense instead of elemental defense.

The not-so-cheap solution relied on magic tomes. Since the troll’s Fire Resistance wasn’t that strong, Ryan decided to make his monsters learn Lesser Fire Enchantment. That cost him two hundred five thousand coins, but it couldn’t be helped.

“The trolls don’t have much mana. Are you sure you want to give them the order to use that spell whenever possible?” Femradiel asked.

“While that is true, their recovery is stupidly high, so that increases the overall magic capacity of their mana pool,” Ryan replied. “The best option would be to tame the bosses, but I can’t do that after their dungeon broke four times.”

In any case, Ryan ran some tests and confirmed that the overall power of his trolls increased by ten percent just by using the level Lesser Fire Enchantment. While that was good, Ryan decided to train them for a few days until the skill reached level twenty, and they could defeat other trolls while losing around ten or twenty percent of their health per fight. In the meantime, Ryan also tamed some more trolls since the skill leveled up and the monsters he left guarding the other dungeons probably died or have given their positions to those who were working for Mark.

“So, you are really planning to leave the trolls alone for a while?” Femradiel asked while Ryan was making the final preparations to resume his trip.

“Yeah, clearing this dungeon will take too much time by myself,” Ryan said. “I will have to articulate and work together with Alissa and the others, but for the time being, that won’t be possible since only Alissa and her lackeys are available to do this. The other guys back in the base are too busy dealing with the problems caused by demons.”

Ryan recognized the fact that it might cause some problems for the whole continent to leave the trolls alone for a while. However, Ryan also acknowledged the fact that he wasn’t the only one who had to solve all those issues. Besides, Ryan was already sick of the cold, and his food supply was quickly reaching its end. The last thing that Ryan wanted now was to eat something like trolls.

“Let’s go, buddy,” Ryan said. “We are almost at Bering strait, so I guess we are halfway through on this journey.”

Hopefully, Ryan won’t find many enemies while he flies over the ocean. Also, hopefully, Ryan wouldn’t find many human hostiles when he reaches the next continent. While some Russians might not like Americans and Americans might not like some Russians, that was an intrigue that Ryan wasn’t interested in. His fight was against monsters and the occasional assholes that he might find along the way. While he wasn’t much of a fan of goody-two-shoes survivals, he wasn’t unreasonable enough to be an asshole to those who were civilized.

When Ryan found the place he was looking for, he couldn’t help but frown when he realized the fact that a massive block of ice was connecting the two continents. Ryan knew that something like that happened during the Ice Ages, but it still was surprising that it would happen once again.

“It looks like we won’t have to fly,” Ryan said.

Ryan gave Furball the order to run, and while he was focused on the surroundings to avoid unpleasant surprises, he still accepted the call via the telepathy link when Alissa used it. She wasn't bothering him as much as she had promised, so Ryan owed her at least that much respect.

"Ryan, the snowstorm lost some power. Did you do something?" Alissa asked.

"I cleared the dungeon at the eye of the storm. You will find some tier three classes there," Ryan replied.

"Where are you right now?" Alissa asked.

"Almost on the next continent," Ryan replied.

"It looks like you found another dungeon along the way. Did you have a hard time?" Alissa asked. "Or rather, did you also leave so many monsters mob monsters behind?"

"I didn't clear the dungeon, the dungeon break will happen before I can do anything, so I decided to skip it," Ryan said. "The monsters are trolls, and they are pretty tough. It will be your job to keep their numbers in check. Regardless, did you talk with Mark about the thing I talked about with you?"

"Yep, he didn't say that a new type of monster appeared in either of our coasts," Alissa replied. "I guess your Brazilian friends just got lucky that a troublesome dungeon appeared close to them. Anyway, thanks to you, I have a lot of cleaning to do, so that I will end the call now."

Alissa didn't complain as much as Ryan thought. It was probably because the whisperers and trolls would cause a lot of problems to her soldiers, which was good to make them stronger. Regardless, that talk made Ryan relax a little and then realize a certain thing he didn't think about before... where would he go after he reaches the continent? Finding tier-three dungeons in the Russian territory by himself or looking for survivors? If he chooses the second option, what were his chances of finding a Russian who could speak English?

"Maybe I should stick with my old plan and travel through the coast while heading southward to escape this hellish cold," Ryan said. "Finding anything within this massive territory will be hard, but there are some places in which it will be easier to find dungeons. Japan is one of them."

## Chapter 356

When Ryan finally crossed the giant bridge of ice that connected both continents, he frowned because he didn't find a single monster in the distance. The trip while crossing the ice had been utterly devoid of any fight, so he was hoping that things would get messy once he arrives.

"Their territory is pretty vast, but maybe the Russians are doing better than us," Ryan said. "Well, no point in waiting to be attacked by monsters. Let's follow the coast, as usual, buddy."

Furball barked, and he began to run. Even after several hours, Ryan didn't find anything on his path. No humans, camps, monsters, or dungeons... on the good side, the climate was much less severe there when he was in Alaska or Canada.

Suddenly, Ryan felt something on his back. A certain discomfort... it was the same feeling that he had when he trained Awareness by using some of his summoned creatures. He was being watched... unfortunately, the range of Radar didn't pick the presence of anything.

Again, very suddenly, Ryan felt something hitting his back. Fortunately, he didn't receive any damage, thanks to his Mystic Cape. When Ryan turned around, he saw several human-like creatures running toward him and firing magic projectiles.

Nicholai (Stone Human) – Lv 170

Health: 5.000/5.000

Mana: 5.000/5.000

Stamina: 5.000/5.000

Strength: 3000

Dexterity: 1000

Speed: 1000

Intelligence: 500

Endurance: 3000

Control: 1000

Mentality: 2000

Luck: 500

Recovery: 3000

Willpower: 2000

Coins: —

Status: —

Skill List

Offensive Physical Skills: Stone Touch Lv 150

Passive Physical Skills: Improved Endurance Lv 130

Spells: Stone Arrow Lv 150, Earth Wall Lv 120

Support Skills: Fire Resistance Lv 120, Cold Resistance Lv 120, Shock Resistance Lv 150, Earth Resistance Lv 200,

“More of them, huh,” Ryan used Flash to dodge the attacks and then said. “They don’t look like the ones that had been turned into demons... so, what are they?”

Those creatures didn’t look human-like. They were humans that had become monsters. Their whole body was gray, as if they had become statues that could move. Still, while they didn’t look insane like the human-demons, they seemed pretty mad while they charged at Ryan.

“Well, I was planning to use this later, but I guess this will do against them.”

Ryan picked the new crossbow that he had made while he was facing the whisperers and then prepared to shoot. Furball stopped moving to give him a steady aim. When Ryan began to fire, he became even faster than a machine gun.

Frost Crossbow (Ice) (+ 3)

Effect: it grants you the power to create freezing bolts at the cost of twenty points of mana.

Dexterity + 104, Intelligence + 39

Durability: 90/90

Whenever the bolts hit the stone humans, the creatures stumbled, and the hit part froze. Despite their high endurance, Ryan managed to kill them pretty fast. After all, he could fire fourteen bolts per second when Firing Posture was active.

You obtained 450 coins.

You obtained 450 coins.



You obtained 450 coins.

...

Ryan didn't hesitate in killing them because he knew they were a lost cause. Still, when the fight was over, Ryan couldn't help but approach them and stare at their dead bodies for a few seconds. They still were using human clothes, but even those had become stone-like for some reason.

"I wonder why they also give me more coins than usual," Ryan furrowed his eyebrows.

"Some humans are coming from the direction those things came from," Femradiel said.

"More of them? Speaking of which, didn't you feel their presence before the attack?" Ryan asked.

"No... I didn't feel it," Femradiel replied. "As for those they are coming, I can feel their presence, and they are like yours."

That was a first... then again. Ryan also noticed that Radar didn't pick them when they got close enough. It was weird that Femradiel didn't have Awareness, but that was a question for another time. Now Ryan had to decide if he should wait for the humans to come or if he should just leave.

"Well, I don't have anything to hide, and if those humans have tracking skills, they might misunderstand me if I leave after noticing them," Ryan said. "Let's confirm if the people here will be hard to interact with or not."

"Aren't you getting pretty careless as of late?" Femradiel asked.

"Not really," Ryan shrugged. "I just think that this new crossbow will be very helpful to avoid problems with other humans."

After a few minutes, a group of survivors appeared. As expected, they were fully armed and geared. Considering that Ryan only killed six stone humans, he couldn't help but frown when fifteen survivors appeared. They obviously were hunting them, but their numbers were too high given those weird creatures' strength.

Congratulations! The skill Mind Armor has leveled up.

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Mind Armor was already being useful as soon as Ryan found some strangers. He also saw those survivors frowning. They confirmed that they couldn't see Ryan's status. As expected, that skill was way too useful.

A tall blonde woman armed with a red crossbow stepped forward while analyzing Ryan and the corpses. Her eyes were pretty serious and savage, but Ryan didn't avoid them. If humans could scare him that quickly, he would have never faced thousands of monsters alone while clearing dungeons. The woman said something, but Ryan didn't understand even a bit, but the accent made her look even angrier.

"Sorry, I don't speak Russian," Ryan said.

"American..." The blond woman said while she furrowed her eyebrows. "What are you doing here? Did you kill them?"

"I am looking for special dungeons, and yes, I killed them," Ryan replied. "Were they your friends?"

"Special dungeons? What for?" The blond woman asked.

"... To obtain more powerful classes," Ryan sighed since his question was ignored. "I don't mean trouble. If my presence is unwanted here, I will leave. However, I can pay a reasonable price if you give some information about the high-level dungeons."

## Chapter 357

The tall, blond woman studied Ryan for a while, wondering if he was really serious about what he said. Every sane person who was still alive would try to clear dungeons and obtain as many classes as possible, but she didn't hear of anyone that decided to leave their countries behind just for that. Like America, Russia had many dungeons, considering both countries' terrain, she failed in believing that Ryan had cleared more than one hundred of them in less than five months.

"There aren't many dungeons in your country?" The woman asked.

"There are plenty of dungeons there, but as I said, I am looking for the special ones," Ryan replied. "The ones that are hard to clear."

Ryan was either insane or very confident in his skills. Even though it would be hard to level up dozens of classes, any reasonable person would try to focus on getting as many low-level classes as possible. Still, Ryan was greedy enough to think that such a method was a waste of time. After all, while he clears high-tiered dungeons, he obtains much more coins and better loot and classes that are at least three times better than the ordinary ones, and that was without mentioning the skills.

"... If you agree with our terms, we can guide you toward some of those dungeons," The blond woman said.

"I am listening," Ryan said.

"Aside from paying to use our dungeons, you must agree that all the loot will be ours," The blond woman said. "Also, while you stay within our territory, you will be on watch 24/7. You can't use your skills when you are not fighting inside the dungeons, and your beast has to stay put the whole time."

"That is fine. I don't see any reason why I should use my skills outside combat," Ryan said. "Unless someone makes me use them, I won't."

Those terms were a bit hard, but they were hardly a problem for Ryan. He could create his own magic items, and he preferred that way to rely on luck. As for the lack of freedom, it was only natural given that Ryan looked indeed suspicious crossing continents alone.

“My name is Natasha, and I am currently the leader of the survivors in the extreme eastern side of our country,” The blond woman said.

“You can call me Ryan,” Ryan said. “If you don’t mind, I would like to visit the dungeons as fast as possible.”

“All right, but before anything, I would like to ask you to pay for the visit of those dungeons before anything,” Natasha said. “We don’t know if you have enough coins for that, after all.”

“That is fair. What are your prices?” Ryan asked.

“I believe we divided the dungeons on the same level you divided them, so you will have to pay one hundred thousand coins to use the level one dungeon, five hundred thousand coins to use the level two dungeons, and one million for the level three dungeons,” Natasha said.

“Are you fine with that?”

“No problem,” Ryan said. “While my main focus is the level three dungeons, I am also looking for a dungeon in which I can obtain the Alchemist class. Which one is the closest?”

“You are lucky. You can obtain the Alchemist class in a dungeon fifty kilometers away from here,” Natasha said.

“So, five hundred thousand first, huh,” Ryan said and then jumped from Furbal’s back. “If you don’t mind, I will pay for the other dungeons later.”

After approaching Natasha, Ryan offered the handshake. Tension rose in the air since Natasha hesitated. Her allies had no idea what they talked about, it seemed. So, her accepting the handshake or not will determine if things will end in a fight. In the end, Natasha’s instincts didn’t warn her of any danger, so

she accepted the handshake. Soon, afterward, she opened her eyes in surprise when she obtained the coins... apparently, she had used the price to use the dungeons as a means to discourage Ryan and make him back down.

“Is something wrong?” Ryan asked.

“No... follow me,” Natasha said.

After turning around, Natasha gave the order to five of her men to keep their eyes on Ryan. Much to Ryan’s annoyance, they would stay behind him, but that wasn’t a problem since he had the mystical cape.

“Femradiel,” Ryan thought. “Your vision is the same as mine or is different?”

“I can see everything around you,” Femradiel replied.

“Good, if those five guys point their weapons at me, I will give you special permission to use Absolute Zero and turn them into ice statues,” Ryan said.

“How unusual of you to give me that kind of permission,” Femradiel said. “If you are worried about them, you should use Appraisal on them.”

“Nah, knowing their strength will make me relax a little more than I should, so I won’t use Appraisal,” Ryan said. “You are still using Zen, right?”

“I never stop using it,” Femradiel said.

That was good. Ryan won’t have to worry about running out of mana if those guys keep using Appraisal on him. Still, fortunately, they tried initially since they had no idea that Mind Armor consumed mana constantly to protect Ryan’s status.

For a while, they traveled in silence since Ryan's presence wasn't something they used to. Or perhaps it was due to Furball... Regardless, Ryan decided to break the silence and ask a few things to Natasha.

"If you don't mind me asking, those stone humans were survivors that got captured by some sort of monsters and taken to their world, right?" Ryan asked.

"Yes, something similar happened in your country?" Natasha asked.

"Yeah, but the ones who did that were demons," Ryan replied. "Demons didn't capture them, am I right?"

"What makes you think that?" Natasha asked.

Ryan sighed. That game of trying to obtain information while not revealing much was tiring... maybe Ryan should just ask Femradiel to read Natasha's mind, but in the end, Ryan gave up on that. He got mad when Alissa did that, so he couldn't let himself become a hypocrite.

## Chapter 358

In the end, Ryan decided to mention pretty much everything he knew about the dungeons that spawned demons. All in order to make Natasha relax and understand that he wasn't a spy or someone who wanted to cause problems in her country. Fortunately, Natasha decided to share some information as well.

"One of the level three dungeons that we have in our country is spawning a small version of the behold," Natasha said. "The creature is called Cursed Eye and can petrify those who stare too much at it or when the creature uses a skill, and that skill hits a certain part of their body."

"Behold? That creepy monster that is like a massive eyeball and has tentacles, and each tentacle has eyes?" Ryan frowned.

"Yes, that one," Natasha nodded.

“So, the boss is a Behold?” Ryan asked.

“No, it is the Medusa,” Natasha replied. “The legendary monsters from the Greek mythology that could turn humans into stones.”

In the end, that didn't surprise Ryan. If Cerberus appeared to hunt him, the arrival of Medusa wouldn't scare him. Regardless, based on what Ryan discovered, he was fairly certain that Natasha and her friends didn't clear that dungeon.

“So, after humans become statues, they are revived like monsters, or they are taken to the dungeon?” Ryan asked.

“They are taken to the dungeon, and now and then, they appear to cause problems,” Natasha said. “Although most of them had once been our allies, they become a real pain in the ass since they can petrify anything they touch, and even monsters of other species join them when that happens.”

Most likely, Medusa was the thing that was making humans join the monsters' side. It was pretty surprising that such a beast could have power so similar to the demons. While it seemed that Ryan will have a hard time clearing that dungeon, he still wanted to go there and create some magic weapons that can petrify monsters as well. Those certainly will be useful.

After a while, Natasha explained that the stone humans that Ryan killed were some monsters that escaped during the last dungeon break. While most monsters were troublesome, the stone humans were even more troublesome, so they couldn't be left alone. That was why Natasha and her friends hunted them down for hundreds of kilometers.

In the end, Ryan, Natasha, and the others arrived in a small town where they found a few dozen survivors. The name of the place was too hard for Ryan to remember, but at least the place had a feature that he could easily identify: a dungeon, and that was the one Ryan could obtain the Alchemist class. After talking with the guards near the dungeon, Natasha approached Ryan.

“It looks like the boss will only spawn tomorrow at noon. You will have to wait until then,” Natasha said.

"I don't mind," Ryan said.

Ryan almost asked if Natasha and her friends could stop and just stay in that area for so long, but in the end, that would be too suspicious. So, he just stayed quiet and followed her to a bonfire that the residents had made in the middle of the town. Although there some houses made of wood there, they weren't big enough for visitors to use. Fortunately, Furball's fur was pretty nice and warm, so he relaxed quite a lot when resting his back on his partner that quickly fell asleep. Natasha couldn't help but frown while watching Ryan so comfortable so close to such a beast.

"May I ask where do you gain the skill to tame such a monster?" Natasha asked.

"I didn't tame him. He is a summoned creature," Ryan said. "I got the skill after I obtained one of my level three classes."

There was no need for Ryan to give so much information for free, but certain things were obvious, so he couldn't hide everything. It looked like Natasha was someone who liked animals, and since Furball looked more like an oversized wolf than a proper monster, she was greatly interested in him.

"He is that big since the beginning?" Natasha asked.

"No, he was just the size of an ordinary dog when I first summoned him, but the more he ate, the faster he grew," Ryan said. "I think he can't grow anymore than this."

Furball was like three meters tall and six long, so he probably would cause more problems than help if he grew any more than that. Fortunately, Ryan didn't notice any growth in the last few weeks.

"He seems pretty reliable," Natasha said.

"He is, even in comparison with other summoned creatures, I can't imagine or compare anyone that looks as reliable as a Warg," Ryan said. "It is weird, but wargs and their master have something like a spiritual link that makes them understand each other, and until now, he never disobeyed a single one of my orders."



Although the conversation seemed pretty relaxed, the guys Natasha had put to watch Ryan from behind were still as cautious as always. Not only that, Ryan felt like many more eyes were on him since he was speaking in English and didn't have a Russian accent. Despite that, nothing happened during the night, and Ryan even managed to take a few naps since Femradiel said that she could stay on guard duty.

When morning came, Ryan walked around town with Natasha and her friends to check a few things and buy others. Although only fifty or so people were living near the dungeon, the place still had a hierarchy, so they had to talk with the heads of the place in order to explain their situation. All the talk had been done in Russian, so Ryan pretty much tagged along. The place even had a market to sell and trade magic items, but since the drops were of a tier two dungeon, Ryan didn't find anything worthwhile.

Fortunately, the monsters being spawned in the dungeon were earthworms, so they had plenty of meat to share. While it wasn't much, Ryan managed to make Furball a bit stronger while he waited.

## Chapter 359

Around noon, some problems started to appear. While apparently, everyone in the town had cleared the dungeon and obtained class, everyone wanted to clear the place whenever possible. After some negotiations, Natasha managed to calm down those who were forced to step back and give Ryan the chance to clear the dungeon. However, the problems didn't end there. Those who entered the dungeon didn't feel safe knowing that a stranger with a crossbow was behind them. Moreover, there was this massive beast with him.

"They are asking you to leave the Warg behind," Natasha said.

"I can't see why I should do it," Ryan said. "That isn't in our agreement, and Furball doesn't count a human, so twenty-four people will be able to clear the dungeon. We are a team, so I am not going to leave him behind."

"Furball?" Natasha frowned. "Anyway, I will see what I can do here."

After sighing, Natasha proceeded to negotiate with everyone again. She cursed herself for not imagining that something like that would happen, and unfortunately, she couldn't change the agreement just because a minor problem arrived. In the end, Natasha silenced the complainers with the power of the coins.

“This is a dungeon that they cleared many times, so we won’t have to fight,” Natasha said. “Don’t attack. Let’s see the people here do their jobs. Also...”

“Yes, yes, Furball won’t do anything,” Ryan said.

While he was waiting, Ryan decided to play with Furball to get rid of the annoying glares that were him. Ryan made Furball do some backflips and even made him play dead to make everyone understand that he had him completely under his control. Natasha’s eyes were sparkling while she watched all that... if she was a dog or cat person, she wasn’t anymore. Now she is a Warg person.

Ryan was really looking forward to testing his two crossbows style. The consumption of mana would be much higher, but of course, he wouldn’t throw away an amazing item like the Pestilence Crossbow or even sell it. Unfortunately, it looked like he will have to wait until he approaches the tier three dungeons.

Regardless, in the end, nothing really happened while the natives were killing the mobs or the boss. It took a while, but they eventually did it. Ryan and Natasha just watched everything with their arms crossed but ready to use their crossbows if something happens.

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: Spearman, Trickster, and Alchemist.

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

Congratulations! You have become a Level one Alchemist!

You obtained the following skills: Alchemy, Auto-Medication, and Potion Creation.

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

Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Alchemy.

Effect: It increases the effectiveness of potions created by you in one percent per level.

You obtained 01 status point.

Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Auto-Medication.

Effect: It increases the effectiveness of the potions you use by one percent per level.

You obtained 01 status point.

Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Potion Creation.

Effect: Upon defeating your enemies, you will gain their soul essence, and by using five of each type, you will be able to use them to create a potion. Current potions that you can make: health, mana, and stamina potions.

Cost: 10 mana

You obtained 01 status point.

Ryan nodded in satisfaction since those skills weren't so bad. It looked like just by relying on Alchemy and Auto-Medication alone, Ryan would be able to increase his potions' effectiveness by a pretty decent margin. Not only that, it looked like he could make different types of potions aside from the ordinary ones that restored his energy.

"Let's get going," Natasha said. "I want to confirm that things still are normal back in my camp."

"Roger that," Ryan said.

Ryan also wanted to get the classes as fast as possible, so he couldn't complain. Regardless, they quickly left the dungeon and the town and then prepared to move South-West. Even though the Russian territory was massive, Ryan barely saw monsters around, and when he did, he found some survivors hunting and killing those same monsters after a while. They have been doing a pretty decent job at keeping their lands safe, to the point where Ryan couldn't help but frown that the stone humans managed to cover quite a distance after escaping.

"Can I ask how many level three dungeons you have in your country?" Ryan asked.

"We only have the knowledge of three, there may be others, but we didn't confirm that yet," Natasha said. "Our territory is vast, and we are proceeding to take it back while moving toward West."

While that was already a pretty decent number, it looked like Natasha and her countrymen perhaps could obtain control over even more of those dungeons. Based on what Ryan imagined, the Russians were probably facing some problems on their South and West sides. Europe was pretty big and had many populous cities. Knowing that dungeons always appear near those places, Ryan could understand why they were having a hard time recovering their territory.

Since they hurried, Ryan, Natasha, and the others managed to run for almost two hundred kilometers without stopping in a single day. Furball could be faster than that, but it looked like few people invested too many points into speed. Moreover, most people also chose between melee classes or magic classes, they never choose the second option, and thanks to that, their speed was even more disappointing. Regardless, they arrived at their destination after running for a full day, only to see a small city being attacked by hundreds of Cursed Eyes.

Chapter 360

Cursed Eye Lv 190

Health: 2500/2500

Mana: 4000/4000

Stamina: 2000/2000

Strength: 500

Dexterity: 1200

Speed: 500

Intelligence: 1500

Endurance: 500

Control: 1000

Mentality: 1000

Luck: 500

Recovery: 1500

Willpower: 1000

Coins: —

Status: —

Skill List

Offensive Physical Skills: Charge Lv 80

Passive Physical Skills: Concentration Lv 100, Passive Recovery Lv 150

Spells: Petrifying Gaze Lv 200, Fly Lv 120

Support Skills: Wind Resistance Lv 120, Electric Resistance Lv 120, Poison Resistance Lv 150

While they weren't as creepy as the Behold in Ryan's head, the Cursed Eyes were pretty ugly. They were basically gigantic eyeballs that could fly around and survive with the bare amount of flesh necessary in their bodies, after all.

Although that small city which was located at Natasha's base, had hundreds of survivors and even had ten meters tall walls, they were failing at containing the monsters' advance. Natasha and her friends hurried to join the fight.

"What should I do?" Ryan asked.

"If you wish to help, you will have to stay close to me, or that will cause some problems later," Natasha said.

Ryan made Furball follow Natasha's pace, and when she grabbed her crossbow, Ryan did the same, but instead of waiting for her order to commence the attack, Ryan did it from his position. He made his bolts rain over the monsters, and even though they were five hundred meters away from him, Ryan didn't miss a single shot. Unfortunately, he aimed to freeze them instead of killing them, but that didn't happen. The Cursed Eyes slowed down thanks to the weapon's enchantment, but only that since their mentality and willpower was high.

Regardless, Ryan's attacks gave a chance to Natasha's group to join the fight before hundreds of the monsters could fly above the walls. Upon noticing that he wasn't alone and he didn't have to kill all of the monsters by himself, Ryan focused on hitting as many monsters as possible with Arrow Shower. Even so, occasionally, he killed one or another beast.

You obtained 140 coins.

You obtained blue soul essence.

You obtained 140 coins.

You obtained green soul essence.

Weirdly enough, the essences that Ryan could use to create potions couldn't be seen. It was even weirder that the same type of monster could give him different essences. Ryan changed his actions again and focused on killing as many monsters as possible since he will need those essences to train the alchemist's skills. Despite that, a Cursed Eye still managed to fire a ray of energy toward Ryan. Furball moved to the side, but Ryan's right leg still got hit. He felt shivers while his leg was turned into stone, and he lost the feeling of it.

Congratulations! You learned the skill Petrification Resistance.

Effect: Decreases the effectiveness of petrification spells and skills by one point per level.

You obtained 01 status point.

"Son of a bitch..." Ryan fired several bolts and finished the monster.

His leg didn't turn to normal despite his actions, and the petrification still was moving across Ryan's leg. However, when he used Purification, the multiplication stopped and even decreased in size. After using it two more times, Ryan was back to normal.

"Phew... that was scary," Ryan muttered.

"So, you can even do that, huh," Natasha said. "Can I ask you a favor?"

"You want me to focus on helping those who got hit by the Petrifying Gaze?" Ryan asked.

“Yes,” Natasha said.

“Well... I don't mind, but later, you will have to give me free reins to hunt the monsters of this area,” Ryan said.

“That can be done. I am the leader of this place,” Natasha said.

While it was a pity, it was a sacrifice Ryan had to make in order to gain the confidence of the people of the region. Regardless, Ryan moved around as fast as possible to help those who were panicking due to the petrification. However, Purification consumed too much mana, and the number of survivors suffering from those status effects was pretty high.

“Are you still using Zen, Femradial?” Ryan said.

“I told you, I never stop using it,” Femradial replied.

In the end, Ryan sighed because he was forced to use his Spatial Ring and get some potions. While that was something everyone will have someday, Ryan didn't want to let others know that he had one. Regardless, Ryan's speed of recovering the survivors increased, the panic stopped spreading, and they rejoined the fight without fearing their death since they knew someone could heal them.

The fight didn't last long once that happened. Without the fear of becoming statues, the survivors showed their true might and slew the monsters easily. Since the monsters focused on petrifying the survivors, not a single one died in that fight. Natasha sighed in relief when she confirmed that not a single one of her subordinates became statues and were captured while she was away.

“Thanks, you saved our asses,” Natasha smiled and then bowed slightly.

“There is no need for thanks. Just allow me to hunt the monsters as promised,” Ryan said.

“What is the name of that skill?” Natasha asked.



“Purification is a skill that I obtained after getting a level three class,” Ryan replied.

“Is that so... I don’t remember finding a tome with that name in any dungeon shops.” Natasha rubbed her chin thoughtfully. “We need that skill to decrease the number of losses on our side.”

“Well, you are pretty far away from the dungeon where you can get the class,” Ryan said.

In the end, Natasha put that matter aside. While they won the battle, the war wasn’t over yet. In any case, Ryan confirmed that Medusa’s dungeon hadn’t been cleared yet. The Cursed Eyes level was just too high, even though they weren’t that resilient and tough to kill.

“Now, the only question is how many bosses I will have to kill. The fifth dungeon break is also about to happen... I have to consider many things here.” Ryan furrowed his eyebrows and considered the situation while looking at the horizon.