Domain 401

Chapter 401

While Ryan didn't feel the presence of any survivors hidden that hadn't joined the monsters' side, nor did Femradiel warn Ryan of that, he found several groups of bosses and survivors heading North. Their goal was obvious... they were going there to look for that group that Ryan destroyed.

"Now what?" Ryan scratched the back of his head. "If I keep ignoring those guys, eventually they will return to Tokyo, and I don't want to leave my back exposed to them."

There was also the question that they would hunt the survivors that Ryan helped. While Ryan didn't feel any need to help Haruna and the others again, they decided not to join the monsters' side, so at the very least, they weren't his enemies.

"If that is going to bother you all that much, you can kill the monsters, and I kill the humans," Femradiel said.

"... It isn't that simple," Ryan sighed. "In one way or another, I will be responsible for their deaths. Hah... I am sick and tired of this."

Ryan didn't want to help the monsters on their task of exterminating humans. Still, he could only do so much to evade certain situations. Leaving those people alone was also counterproductive since they will eventually make the dungeons break much sooner. To increase humans' chances, survive that war, it looked like Ryan will be forced to dirty his hands with human blood again.

After taking a deep breath, Ryan put his ballista out of the storage dimension and then pulled the lever while he also activated Perfect Aim. Like a machine gun, he blinded seven silver tigers. After that, he equipped his pestilence crossbow and attacked the survivors. When they finally found Ryan, he had already killed half of their forces. They tried to hide behind the monsters, but they failed miserably, and Ryan pierced their backs.

"I was wondering... what will happen if you use the soul of a human to make a magic weapon?" Femradiel said. "You didn't do that yet, right?"

"What an excellent time to propose such an idea..." Ryan sighed. "Just focus on using potions."

Ryan equipped his Thunder Lord Crossbow and also created another one with Magic Crossbow. Even though he tried to prevent the monsters from attacks, he couldn't do that against seven monsters. While the creatures lost their eyes, they still could sense Ryan and tried to fry him with lightning bolts. They failed miserably, and while that took a while, Ryan fished them off, not before he tried to tame one of them, but he failed miserably as well, after dozens of times.

"I guess they can't be tamed since they are copies from the original beasts," Ryan shrugged. "Well, let's clean up this mess."

Hiding the corpses of the monsters was impossible, but burying the humans was easy. So, Ryan did that while Furball was eating. Now that he decided to get rid of that problem, Ryan had to worry about another. It was only a matter of time before the real boss and the dungeon master noticed that someone was killing those giant beasts. Ryan had to prepare for that. Unfortunately, Ryan couldn't imagine many ways to win an all-out war against thousands of those bosses. Not even his new weapons would help him with that.

"As long as I fly and keep my distance from the monsters, I think I can win against Genbu and Byakko's army," Ryan concluded. "However, if the flying monsters decide to join the fight to finish them off or to hunt me... things will get really messy."

It would be really great if Ryan could find a way to make the monsters fight against each other. He slowly and stealthily decreases their numbers, but hoping for that was a bit too much.

"I sense a weird concentration of mana a few kilometers ahead," Femradiel said. "The number of humans and those silver tigers are pretty high."

Ryan began to fly and then looked in that direction, but he didn't see anything aside from overgrown grass, trees, and some mountains. Moreover, he was pretty sure that Tokyo wasn't that close.

"Let's proceed from here onward with a little more caution," Ryan said.

He didn't even have to see the place that Femradiel mentioned to understand what was ahead. Ryan found several silver tigers walking around in circles as if they were searching or guarding something. Without a doubt, that their base outside the dungeon was the first thing Ryan was going to find before

he reached Tokyo.

Ryan decided to confirm that by flying even more, higher than before, and then he saw a small city that

had been rebuilt in the last few months. Strangely enough, the place seemed kind of odd. The houses were made of wood and made Ryan recall some movies he saw in the past where the stars were some

samurais.

"I guess those houses are easier to build, but... they are also equally easy to destroy," Ryan frowned.

"They must have a lot of confidence in those monsters for them to build a city like that."

In any case, Ryan just confirmed that trying to make the monsters go at each other would be much more difficult. Even if they hurry, the survivors and bosses will have to run for a couple of hours to find the

other factions' bases... Assuming that the others had built some camps as well.

"No... if I decrease the number of monsters on one side and then make the other parties realize that one

group has been weakened, they certainly will attack the weakened party," Ryan rubbed his chin thoughtfully. "The long-ranged attacks of the silver tigers are quite troublesome, so maybe I should start

with them."

It was a risky plan. Moreover, Ryan will doom many survivors with that strategy. He was fully aware that

most of those that joined the monsters' side did so to be able to protect their family and friends... so,

Ryan will doom many people that never pointed their weapons at him.

Class: Hunter Lv 80 (+ 04 UP / Elementalist Lv 55 / Monk Lv 16 (–)

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

Rank: 109th

Health: 1715/1715 (5,10/s)

Mana: 2612/2612 (5,10/s)

Stamina: 2650/2650 (5,10/s)

Strength: 31 (+166) (+130)

Dexterity: 2550 (+2175) (+220)

Speed: 140 (+975) (+48)

Intelligence: 81 (+674) (+33)

Endurance: 28 (+141) (+160)

Control: 06 (+1055) (+10)

Mentality: 08 (+56) (+70)

Luck: 100 (+20)

Recovery: 1100 (+1600) (+360)

Willpower: 30 (+56) (+40)

Coins: 4.055.441

Status: 00

Skill List

Offensive Physical Skills: Power Shot Lv 96 (+ 03 UP),

Passive Physical Skills: Eagle Eyes Lv 78 (+ 03 UP), Concentration Lv 78 (+ 03 UP), Archery Lv 78 (+ 03 UP), Accuracy Lv 78 (+ 03 UP), Passive Recovery Lv Max (+ 30 UP), Skill Camouflage Lv 01,

Spells: Magic Bow Lv 21 (+ 10 UP), Spatial Manipulation Lv 06 (+ 05 UP), Status Copy Lv 01, Skills Copy Lv 01, Temporary Transformation Lv 01, Mana-Eater Lv 05 (+ 04 UP),

Support Skills:

Classes:

Combat: Beastmaster Lv 45 (+ 04 UP), Archer Lv 72 (+ 04 UP), Combat Archer Lv 67 (+ 04 UP), Sniper Lv 52 (+ 06 UP), Weapons Master Lv 35 (+ 07 UP), Sentinel Lv 25 (+ 05 UP), Demon Hunter Lv 21 (+ 03 UP), Ranger Lv 25 (+ 07 UP), Silent Killer Lv 08 (+ 04 UP), Mimic Lv 01

Non-Combatant:

Race: Centaur, Lesser Dragon

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To prevent the worst-case scenario, Ryan decided to lay some traps around the place that he selected as his base. He wasn't that close to the first camp he was going to attack, but he was close to seeing the main route they used to head straight toward the northern part of the country.

Oddly enough, Ryan had selected the peak of a mountain for that job. Even though he didn't expect that, he also found another route on the other side of the mountain that was used by the Genbu species.

"Such dumb monsters... so close to each other, and yet they don't feel each other's presence or notice their movements," Ryan sighed. "I need to learn from this and focus on leveling up Radar and Awareness. In any case, can you feel the location of the dungeons, Femradiel?"

"Yes, they are located respectively in the cardinal points around Tokyo," Femradiel replied. "Byakko in the North, Genbu in the West, Seiryu in the East, and Suzaku in the South."

Ryan nodded after hearing that; it makes sense that the bosses organized their species using those directions as well. While it made sense, Ryan felt that something was off... but he couldn't pinpoint what that was.

Regardless, Ryan began the massacre. Whenever a boss entered his range, he attacked. However, not like usual. Ryan used his ballista in an unusual way. After charging it with Power Shot, he controlled the projectile with Force. He made it fly in a curve that made the projectile as if it had come from the West, the direction where the Genbu species could be found.

Still, even a charged attack from the ballista didn't finish off the monster. Still, Ryan completed the task by firing another massive steel needle.

"Next time, I should activate Deadly Aim," Ryan said. "I guess I also need to find a way to charge Power Shot faster. It is a pain and not very efficient to charge for five minutes every time I have to kill those behemoth-like creatures."

Ryan also needed to find a way to charge his projectiles with mana. He recalled that Mana Transfusion could do that. Still, for some reason, whenever he tried to charge an attack with it, he failed.

"You shouldn't force your mana inside it," Femradiel said. "Your stamina doesn't do that when you use Power Shot. You envelop the projectiles with them."

While Femradiel helped quite a bit, it took a while for Ryan to successfully cover a bolt with mana. It hadn't been as easy as learning Power Shot. However, he learned that doing that, in a sense, was much better than just using Power Shot. The mana reinforced the bolts, increasing their durability, piercing power, and speed.

Congratulations! You learned the skill Mana Reinforcement.

Effect: At the cost of your mana, you can increase your physical abilities or the properties of any object. It increases your strength, endurance, and speed by five points per level.

Cost: 30 mana per second.

You obtained 01 status point.

Ryan nodded in satisfaction, but the skill was at such low-level that it would take a while for it to become useful. Ryan probably could forcefully increase the effects of the skill by using more mana, but even so...

"Femradiel... you said you can use mana and coins to level up your skills, right?" Ryan asked. "Can you use coins to level up my skills?"

"I don't know..." Femradiel said. "I have some reserves of mana to do that. Why not use that method?"

"That method won't increase the mana that you will obtain in the long run, so that will be counterproductive for you," Ryan said. "Anyway, try to level Mana Reinforcement by using some coins."

In the end, Femradiel could use coins to make Ryan's skills level up, but she had to take over his body for a while. However, by doing so, she also had access to Ryan's coins as well. The only problem was the cost to level up the skills. It cost one thousand coins at level one at level two, two thousand coins, and at level three, four thousand coins, and so on...

"I guess it isn't that efficient," Ryan said. "Well, no matter. I need to save some time here."

Congratulations! The skill Mana Reinforcement has leveled up.

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You obtained nine status points.

Since it was a buff, Ryan could keep the skill active, and it would level up by itself. So, Ryan could make it level up a few times every single day... as long as he uses some mana potions. In any case, by using Power Shot, Mana Reinforcement, and Deadly Aim, Ryan managed to kill the monsters at a pretty decent pace without revealing his position, but there was still a problem: the corpses stayed visible for quite a while. Sometimes the silver tigers found black tortoises in the direction Ryan made them think the attacks came from, but sometimes they didn't.

"I already knew that something like that might happen, so there is no reason to worry too much about it," Ryan shrugged.

In the end, Ryan had to struggle not to kill any black tortoise. If he had done that, both monsters would confirm that there was a third party nearby, and the plan to make them go at each other would crumble apart. Still, despite his caution, the silver tigers noticed that something was off and eventually stopped going North to check things. Now they only guarded the region around their camp, and that makes a lot more difficult for Ryan. Despite that, Ryan caught himself smiling in front of that new problem.

"You are really weird," Femradiel said.

"I guess so," Ryan shrugged. "In any case, this is a good thing. I wouldn't become stronger mentally and physically if the monsters don't adapt to my actions. With these kinds of problems, I can force myself to become stronger and to come up with better plans to fight the hordes of monsters. Eventually, all this power and knowledge will make me reach my ultimate goal."

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Ryan was waiting expectantly for the day where he will be able to overpower his enemies, defeating them without relying on strategy. However, while he is waiting for it, he doesn't have any other choice besides adapting and improvising to the troublesome scenarios the monsters will show to him.

"The number of ordinary monsters here is too low," Ryan said while looking around. "I guess it would be troublesome to feed so many monsters if they stay in a single place."

Speaking of food, Ryan saw several vehicles coming now and then carrying the corpses of all kinds of monsters. As expected, the bosses that guarded the camp had to wait to obtain food like that since the black tortoises weren't stupid enough to get closer to their fortress. In any case, a solution for Ryan's problems just fell on his lap.

"I guess I will take over the dungeons and defeat the humans that are bringing the food. That way, I will force the silver tigers to leave their base to look for food," Ryan rubbed his chin thoughtfully. "There isn't any dungeon in a few dozen kilometers, so the bosses will have to split to look for food."

"Some unexpected visitors are approaching," Femradiel said.

When Ryan heard that alert, he couldn't help but frown. He didn't mess up a single time, aside from the time he left the humans guarding that dungeon alone. Still, only that wouldn't be enough to make the monsters find his hideout. However, when Ryan focused his eyes in the distance, he facepalmed... Haruna and some survivors were heading toward the silver tigers' camp. They were moving as if they were cautious, but they looked like a bunch of morons since Ryan found them so easily.

"I can't make them stay away since this business involves their country," Ryan said and then sighed. "I guess I will have to make them do something useful."

Ryan couldn't leave his position since he had to keep an eye on the surroundings, and there was no better place to do that than a place where he had the high-ground. So, he made Furball go meet those morons. They would recognize him since not even Ryan saw a dungeon that spawned Wargs until now.

After a while, Furball returned alongside Haruna and five other survivors. It was hard to know if she only managed to convince only them or if she had decided to split her soldiers to do something else.

"Hey... hello again," Haruna forced a smile. "Fancy meeting you here."

"You guys really do have a death wish, huh," Ryan frowned. "I can't find any other explanation as to why people that are so bad at stealth would decide to come this far."

"I don't think you are right. We managed to avoid all fights, until now, after all," Haruna said.

"Incredible... if I didn't know any better, I would be surprised if I hadn't killed all the bosses that left this area," Ryan said. "Anyway, enough talking about that. If you guys want to do something useful, I will let you do it. Just don't get in my way."

"Of course..." Haruna nodded nervously while looking at Ryan's ballista and also seeing some of the bosses' corpses in the distance.

"I need to find the location of all dungeons in the area that spawn big and organic monsters," Ryan said. "I want to cut the food supply of those freaks and make them expose themselves to my attacks even more."

"We have that intel," Haruna said. "But only about from the Northern side of our country, we didn't dare pass nearby Tokyo when those monsters were in that region."

"That will be enough," Ryan said. "By the way, where are your other soldiers?"

"They are not my soldiers. They are my companions," Haruna shook her head. "We used this chance to split and keep the dungeons around under vigilance. However, we didn't have any plan of recovering them since the number of survivors on the other side is higher."

"I guess we will have to get rid of them," Ryan said with a serious look on his face.

While Haruna felt that Ryan seemed pretty bloodthirsty by saying that so easily, Ryan still felt troubled by the fact that he had to keep killing humans. That was annoying, but at the very least, as long as he doesn't think that such a thing is normal, everything will be relatively fine.

Ryan considered his options. Cutting the food supply of the monsters will help him divide and conquer, but leaving his current position might also cause problems later since he will leave the monsters unchecked. He will also lose sight of them for a while.

"Time is of the essence," Ryan said. "Guide me toward those dungeons."

In the end, the only thing Ryan could do was to hurry. While his plan might fail, there are various things he could do to decrease those chances. Without wasting any more time, Haruna guided Ryan to the nearest dungeon that spawned earthworms. While Ryan found some survivors and silver tigers guarding the place, the monsters' level reached level 220, which made Ryan feel like resisting the dungeon invasion seemed like a waste of time.

In any case, Ryan summoned his ballista from his spatial storage, and just like before, he blinded the bosses with it. After that, he killed the survivors without hesitating. Upon noticing that an unknown force that could kill them was too far away from them, but still could massacre them, the monsters tried to escape. However, Ryan pierced their legs with the massive steel needles. While seeing Ryan being so bloody without even blinking, Haruna couldn't help but sweat cold while gulping.

Haruna thought that despite his cold façade, Ryan was a pretty warm guy. He got angry when a kid lost his arm, after all, and didn't even hesitate in fighting against so many dangerous beasts. Still, it looked like those assumptions were way off the mark.

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Haruna's impression of Ryan only worsened after he single-handedly defeated the guards that were protecting the dungeon. Mostly thanks to Furball since he got covered in blood while he was eating the bosses. Haruna almost threw up when she imagined that Ryan would make his partner eat the Japanese guards. Enemies or not, they were still her countrymen...

"Why are you looking at me like that?" Ryan frowned. "I am not going to make my partner taste human flesh."

Haruna sighed in relief since she confirmed that Ryan still had some morals. Regardless, she still was quite fearful of the strength of a single man that for some reason, decided to fight alone against the monsters.

"Did you already clear this dungeon?" Ryan asked.

"No," Haruna replied. "None of us have cleared it."

It looked like Ryan will have to leave Furball on guard duty. While he was more trustworthy than anyone in thousands of kilometers, Ryan wanted to leave someone behind who actually could give a proper report about things.

Regardless, Ryan took the lead and, alongside Haruna and the others, entered the dungeon and slew the earthworms that tried to devour him. Since he hurried, Ryan cleared the dungeon in less than five minutes, the boss didn't even have the chance to attack, thanks to Thunder Lord Crossbow.

"I guess they didn't clear the dungeon because when the dungeon breaks, they will have more food for those enormous beasts," Ryan said.

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: Gladiator, Pyro Trickster, and Summoner.

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 Pyro Trickster!

You obtained the following skills: Fire Charge, Explosive Touch, and Fire Armor.

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

Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Fire Charge.

Effect: It increases your speed explosively for a single moment while your charge toward your enemy covered in flames. If you hit the target, you will cause damage equal to your strength plus your intelligence. Momentary bonus of speed: 2% per level.

Cost: 30 mana and 30 stamina
You obtained 01 status point.
Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Explosive Touch.
Effect: It causes an explosion when punching or kicking your foes, causing damage equal to your strength plus strength + 05% per level.
Cost: 25 mana
You obtained 01 status point.
Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Fire Armor.
Effect: It grants you the power to summon an armor made of fire that increases your endurance and mentality by ten points per level. The armor decreases the effects of all fire-related attacks fired against you by one percent per level and increases your fire-related attacks by the same amount.
Cost: 25 mana per second.
You obtained 01 status point.
In the end, Ryan decided to get a tier two-class, even though he wasn't expecting much, he received some pleasant surprises. All of those skills would be useful in some way or another, so Ryan started to question if he wasn't ignoring the potential of tier two classes.
Regardless, Ryan began to summon golems and filled the last part of the dungeon with them. Those monsters will not only make sure that no earthworm will escape the dungeon but will also attack all humans that might try to enter the dungeon at least for a while. It was only natural that such a plan

wouldn't work forever.

"Summoning spells... can you give them any order?" Haruna asked.

"Yes, I just gave them the order to attack everything on sight," Ryan replied.

"... What will happen with the others that might help us?" Haruna asked. "While they won't have time to level up the classes, they still will be useful."

"If you want to make your friends get classes, then ask someone to go get them," Ryan said.

"I am going to clean those paces as fast as possible and then prepare for when the monsters will leave their base to investigate, and I am not going to wait for anyone."

While that was a golden opportunity, Haruna also realized that it was a race against time. Ryan had a point, and even Haruna knew that only a couple of survivors with two or three new classes wouldn't be of much use to his plans. Since he wasn't going to rely on them all that much anyway, Haruna and the others could only tag along and try their best to increase his chances of succeeding.

Haruna did exactly that. She sent her fastest companion to alert the others and make them prepare for their arrival on the third dungeon. As far as she knew, there were only three dungeons where the silver tigers and some survivors that joined their side guarded, and all of them fit Ryan's criteria: they spawned pretty massive organic monsters. The monsters that he was going to find in those dungeons were: Steel Eagle and Mad Elephants. Ryan frowned when he heard those names since they didn't look like the names of any mythological creature Ryan has heard of... Regardless, they were big and had plenty of meat on their bodies, and that was exactly what the silver tigers wanted.

While Ryan and the others were heading toward the second dungeon, suddenly, he felt a slight discomfort... as if someone invisible was too close to him. Ryan turned around and looked in all directions, but that sensation on his back didn't leave him.

You are being watched," Femradiel said. "Someone who has clairvoyance has found you."

Ryan knew that eventually, something troublesome would happen. Still, he didn't expect it would be so soon, and the possible enemy would have such a skill... His job suddenly got even more difficult.

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Steel Eagle

Health: 3500/3500

Mana: 7500/7500

Stamina: 5000/5000

Strength: 500 (+ 50)

Dexterity: 900 (+ 150)

Speed: 750 (+ 150)

Intelligence: 850 (+ 150)

Endurance: 300

Control: 750

Mentality: 500 (+ 150)

Luck: 750

Recovery: 2000

Willpower: 500 (+ 150)
Coins: —
Status: 00
Skill List
Offensive Physical Skills: Steel Claws Lv 140
Passive Physical Skills: Concentration Lv 120, Focus Lv 100
Spells: Fly Lv 100, Steel Arrow Lv 90
Support Skills: Wind Resistance Lv 150, Fire Resistance Lv 120, Cold Resistance Lv 100
In the end, instead of just killing the boss of the second dungeon, Ryan decided to tame the beast since it was a pretty decent fighter, and by using the creature, he would be able to save some mana while fighting. Not to mention, there are few things as cool as an armored eagle. As for the class that Ryan got there, he picked Templar since his other options were Ninja and Alchemist, two classes that he already had. The skills Ryan got were: Protection, Rationality, and Holy Enchantment.
"Another set of interesting skills, but I don't these ones will be as useful as the others," Ryan rubbed his chin thoughtfully. "Protection makes me select an ally and receive some of the damage the ally received, Rationality passively increases my mentality, and Holy Enchantment is an elemental buff that is useful against demons and undead"
Despite that, Ryan felt satisfied thanks to his Steel Eagle. While the others were picking their classes, Ryan filled the past of the dungeon with golems again. His supply of potions was quickly running out

since there weren't many monsters in the area for him to kill, but it couldn't be helped.

"We are ready to go," Haruna declared.

Ryan nodded, but before giving the order to proceed to the next dungeon, Ryan decided to ask a few more questions to her. While Ryan wasn't expecting much, it was better than nothing.

"Did you and your friends notice any weird creature aside from those four massive beasts?" Ryan asked.

"From my perspective, pretty much all the monsters are weird," Haruna frowned. "I didn't find anything weirder that the four beasts appearing, but... I saw something inexplicable happening."

"And that is?" Ryan asked.

"When the dragons first arrived and attacked Tokyo, they destroyed a lot of the city," Haruna explained. "However, after a while, they just stopped attacking the city altogether and began to fly around in circles. I don't know why, but eventually, they gave up on our country. If I had to make a guess, I would say it was thanks to the silver tigers and the black tortoises since they were increasing in number and they were pretty troublesome for the dragons."

That was a first... Ryan never heard of the dragons giving up on destroying a city. Ryan decided to ask Femradiel's opinion about it later, but she decided to give him some answers right at that moment.

"I can think of a few possible explanations," Femradiel said. "Either the dragons found a really troublesome opponent that couldn't fly or someone or something put a magic barrier around the city."

"Or maybe both," Ryan said.

"... You are right," Femradiel said.

Haruna frowned since she didn't hear Femradiel's voice, and from her perspective, Ryan was talking alone. Regardless, Ryan readily accepted that hypothesis since it explained why the four beasts were fighting for Tokyo. They probably wanted to kill that person for one reason or the other, and the person who erected the barrier probably was the one who used Clairvoyance on Ryan earlier.

While more questions were being added to the mystery, Ryan felt thankful since he was slowly approaching the end of the situation. However, if really a single person managed to keep the dragons away and could fight against the horde of those massive monsters, perhaps Ryan should stay away from

Tokyo.

"Not before I clear those four dungeons," Ryan shrugged.

Ryan, Haruna, and the others proceeded toward the next dungeon, and just like before, Ryan mercilessly killed the guards who were keeping an eye on the place and collecting the monsters' bodies as resources. Once that happened, Haruna gave the sign to the survivors who were hidden nearby to come, and Ryan frowned when he saw two hundred of them. They were heavily armed, and they looked

like they were about to face some final fight or something.

"Are those all of your soldiers?" Ryan asked.

"Those are all of my companions," Haruna corrected.

The number was pretty high, more than Ryan imagined, at least. The only problem was that some of

them were elderly and kids... at least they also had some long-ranged magic items.

Mad Elephant - Lv 240

Health: 8000/8000

Mana: 2500/2500

Stamina: 5000/5000

Strength: 2500 (+ 150)

Dexterity: 400 (+ 50)

Speed: 250 (+ 50) Intelligence: 250 (+ 50) Endurance: 2500 (+ 350) Control: 750 Mentality: 1000 (+ 250) Luck: 250 Recovery: 4000 Willpower: 1000 (+ 250) Coins: — Status: — Skill List Offensive Physical Skills: Mad Charge Lv 140 Passive Physical Skills: Stone Skin Lv 120, Bronze Skin Lv 100 Spells: Mana Armor Lv 90, Regeneration Lv 50

Support Skills: Wind Resistance Lv 200, Fire Resistance Lv 200, Cold Resistance Lv 200

Just as Ryan had expected, the mad elephants were bulky monsters. Not only were they larger than the ones on Earth, but they were also green, and they fang and pretty long horns. Since they had some troublesome skills and high durability, Ryan used Deadly Aim whenever they showed up to finish off the job as fast as possible.

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

It has been a while since that happened... but Ryan indeed found a dungeon where all the classes he could obtain he already had. In the end, he just shrugged.

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In the end, Ryan chose the Alchemist class to make his skill at potion-making to increase. Besides, he wanted to obtain the recipe to create potions that will boost his dexterity. So, that was only natural. Fortunately, in another sense, he had been lucky.

Congratulations! The class Alchemist has reached level 30.

Now you can produce DEX and SPE potions!

DEX potion formula: one red soul essence + eight green soul essences + one blue soul essence.

SPE potion formula: two red soul essences + six green soul essences + two blue soul essences.

"And I didn't even have the chance to use the STR potions," Ryan laughed a little. "Well, it doesn't really matter."

While the others were choosing their classes, Ryan started to summon golems. It would be great if they could be used against the bosses, but unfortunately, that wasn't the case. Despite the stupid cost in mana to summon them, not even if they reach the same level as the bosses, they will become a real threat to them.

"You should leave a few of your soldiers here," Ryan said. "In case something unexpected happens, they will inform us."

"They are my companions..." Haruna said and then sighed. "Three of them should be fine, right?"

Ryan nodded. He wanted to make her leave more people behind since they won't be very useful against the bosses, and Ryan didn't need more human deaths on his conscience, but that wasn't his call. In any case, Ryan and the others turned around and followed the path they used in the last few hours. It was a bit annoying, but Ryan had to give the order for the other golems in the other dungeons not to attack Haruna and her soldiers. While that took Ryan another day, fortunately, he didn't notice any changes in the monsters' behavior.

"What do you think, Femradiel?" Ryan asked.

"The silver tigers are being cautious since you destroyed several of their groups and they have no information about the situation North from their base," Femradiel replied. "I have no idea what the black tortoises are thinking. You decreased the numbers of a group to the point that they should have noticed that they are weakened, and not stupid species would use that chance to attack."

Ryan was also thinking along the same lines... in any case, it was only a matter of time before the monsters began to starve. He doubted that those freaks would resist for longer since their growth will undoubtedly slow down due to it.

Just waiting for the confrontation between the monsters wasn't something Ryan wanted to do, so he began to think of ways to make Haruna and the others useful. The group was pretty well-balanced, but that also meant that they wouldn't become a helpful force anytime soon unless Ryan finds a non-conventional way to power them up.

Ryan checked their status and confirmed that everyone there had at least five hundred points of mana. While it wasn't a decent number to use his crossbows, Ryan decided to craft some for them and then enchant with the souls of his golems. It was just a loan, and since that would help Ryan improve his skills, he had no reason not to do it. It would be great if he could make copies of the Thunder Lord Crossbow, but hope for that was a bit too much.

"The plan is going to be like this," Ryan began his explanation. "Since you guys are too weak, you will have to focus on attacking a single enemy. Even though you guys are weak, you will cause enough damage to kill a boss, even with a weapon that weaklings like you never used before."

"... Why do you have to keep reminding us of that?" Haruna asked, slightly annoyed.

"To make you guys feel the urge to improve," Ryan said.

Since he already knew all the parts of his crossbows, crafting them fast had been pretty easy. He just had to find the right amount of dirt, then transform it into steel, and then use Auto-Production. While the whole process consumed around one thousand points of his mana, the crossbows could be crafted in less than ten seconds.

"I know that you know what you are doing, but given that you can make items easy just like that, shouldn't you focus on increasing our strengths?" Haruna asked. "Long-ranged weapons are fine and all, but changing our fighting style so suddenly won't be that helpful."

"Do you seriously think your fighting style can let you survive a melee fight against monsters of that size?" Ryan asked.

"··· No," Haruna said.

"It looks like you are not a lost cause," Ryan said. "I don't need you guys to die in front of me, so I will make sure that you will be useful to the very end and the only way to do that is not to put you guys on the frontlines."

Haruna understood that Ryan was worried about their safety in his own cold way. The truth was that Ryan didn't want to see more people dying, even more so when they were on his side. He still could recall the anger he felt when he fought against Mephisto, and that type of anger was dangerous.

"So, you are going to use them as an army, just like Victor?" Femradiel asked.

"It will take months for them to reach that level," Ryan shook his head. "But even with their status, they should be able to kill a few bosses in a short amount of time if they concentrate all their mana. I think I will need at least that much help if things take a wrong turn somewhere."

"Well, if you are looking for help, I can offer you some," Femradiel said. "Don't worry, you won't have to transform into a dragon."

"What exactly do you have in mind?" Ryan asked.

"Have you heard off of doppelgangers and familiars?" Femradiel asked. "I can think that those can help you."

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Ryan frowned when he heard those names. Doppelgangers were basically a monster than can transform into their enemies... Ryan was pretty sure that such skill was the low-level version of whatever skill the dungeon system uses to make copies of the bosses.

"Doppelgangers are fake copies of yourself, they consume a lot of mana to exist, but since they don't have a physical form, they can keep attacking as long as you have mana," Femradiel said.

"I don't think that fits my style, I already consume too much mana on my own," Ryan said.

"While increasing the output of my attacks seems interesting, there is no meaning if I can't maintain it for more than a few seconds."

"That is true, but I was thinking of making a doppelganger of myself, I have a lot of mana stored, after all. While that will cost me a lot, it is a skill I truly want to level up and one day, master."

"Did you really give up on recovering your body?" Ryan asked.

"No, but I can't see the need to have one constantly now," Femradiel said. "Just be able to move around now and then and fight in situations like this is enough for me, but I guess you have a point, if you are willing to let me fight alongside you more often, we can use the second option and I can assume the form of a familiar."

"What are the differences between a familiar, a summoned monster, and a tamed one?" Ryan asked.

"Basically, familiars are special creatures that are linked to your soul, just like me when we made the contract," Femradiel explained. "However, only special creatures can become familiars and you can't use any skill to make them join you. They have to offer themselves to become your familiar. You can think of them as Pokémon, when you need them for battle, you can summon them without consuming your mana and whenever they obtain will be yours. When they aren't needed to fight, they can join your spirit, and there they can recover their strength two times faster."

"Why do you know about Pokémon?" Ryan frowned.

That sounded pretty neat, but Ryan thought only dragons could make pacts with humans... it was also weird that only certain creatures could become familiars. Why was that the case? Which were the requirements?

"Another good thing of the familiars is that you can have as many as you want," Femradiel added. "Since I know the process on how to create a proper magic body, I can split my strength into several parts and then become multiple familiars."

"That sounds way too useful..." Ryan frowned. "What about your real body?"

"The familiars will become my new body, if I wish for it, I can fuse them and then recover my old body, once the familiars become strong enough," Femradiel replied. "Still, knowing you, you won't accept that, since you are so fearful of betrayals."

"Not at all, I am not worried about betrayals," Ryan shrugged. "I concluded that worrying endlessly is a waste of time. If someone betrays me and try to kill me, I just have to kill they first, end of the story. If the betrayal happens in a minor scale, then I just have to ignore them. I am completely free from such worries now."

While that sounded too good to be true, Ryan seemed so calm that he convinced Femradiel. He truly was thinking that was the absolute truth, and he didn't have to worry about such things. While that was convenient for Femradiel, it also made her think that Ryan took his relationships with others too lightly.

"If you are fine with that, I will need some time to make a proper body that can withstand my power and can be fused with other bodies," Femradiel said. "I will have to focus, so keep an eye on your surroundings."

Although letting Femradiel fight alongside him has become a normal occurrence, Ryan couldn't help but wonder when things changed. After all, he didn't want to receive help from anyone while fighting. It was probably because sometimes he didn't have a choice in the matter, like this time where Haruna and her soldiers decided to join Ryan to exterminate the monsters that took over their country. In the end, he couldn't say no since the destiny of their homeland was hanging in the balance. So, Ryan decided to make Femradiel have some opportunities to fight since she has been quite helpful as of late.

In any case, Ryan resumed his crossbow creation, and after crafting the first ten, he enchanted them the golems' spirits. Only after that, he gave the weapons to Haruna and some other survivors.

"Try to hit Furball with it," Ryan said.

"Are you sure?" Haruna asked, visibly troubled.

"Just don't aim at his face, if you do, you will die by my hands," Ryan said. "If you guys hit any other part of his body, not even a scratch will be left behind."

After hearing Ryan's words, naturally, the survivors hesitated. However, Haruna decided to take the lead and attack Furball. Just as Ryan said, the bolt didn't even leave a mark behind. As for Furball, he only lost a single point of health. Since he had more than three thousand, the damage was laughable.

Others joined Haruna and soon learned some archery skills and level them up since Furball was much stronger than them. However, they didn't get even close to scratching. While no one was looking, Ryan also cast Protect on his partner, and that increased Furball's endurance even more.

To motivate Haruna and the others, even more, Ryan used the free status points that Furball had and increased his recovery and endurance. While Ryan was doing that with the excuse to motivate the survivors, deep down, Ryan was laughing. That was refreshing, and it was precisely the thing he needed before an important battle. While the pile of bolts was increasing, Ryan thought he would be able to reuse them, but unfortunately, for some reason, he failed at using or even reforging them since the tips had been bent upon the impact.

Chapter 408

After exactly a full day, Ryan was starting to get impatient. He had already armed Haruna and the others with decent crossbows, but there was no sign of the monsters despite the wait. Not even mosses or the ordinary mobs. While Ryan could occasionally see the black tortoises coming and going, they weren't his targets for the time being.

"I guess ambushing them won't be easy," Ryan rubbed his chin thoughtfully. "Still, at least that confirmed that whoever used Clairvoyance, isn't on the monsters' side."

If that weren't the case, the peak of the mountain where Ryan and the others were in would have been attacked a long time ago. Ryan didn't have enough proofs to concluded that, but he assumed that the person who used Clairvoyance was also the same who erected the magical barrier around Tokyo. They were the single party that was participating in that game in which Ryan no information, after all.

"I suppose it can't be helped..." Ryan said and then sighed.

The bosses guarding the perimeter were a bit far away, but Ryan decided to harass them from a distance in hopes of inciting them to move. Ryan couldn't use Deadly Aim or Perfect Aim on creatures he couldn't see, so he made sure to charge a lot more mana on the steel needle by using Mana Reinforcement before firing it.

By using Force, Ryan managed to see and control the projectile, and he confirmed that the bosses had retreated quite a lot, and now they formed a perfect encirclement around their base. Before Ryan made the needle pierce the head of a Byakko, he saw some bosses carrying the corpses of some black tortoises.

You obtained 70,000 coins.

"They are fighting and hunting the monsters somewhere else... they know that someone is hunting them here in the North and they don't intend to let their numbers increase any further," Ryan said.

"How did you learn that?" Haruna asked.

"It is hard to explain," Ryan said and then rubbed his chin thoughtfully. "...We will have to approach their base a little more."

Haruna passed the messages to the others, and just like her, they didn't like the idea very much. Getting closer to that camp means that the chances of them being attacked by dozens of those bosses would increase. While they were ready to fight to recover their country, they didn't want to fight in such dire situations. However, in the end, they didn't complain.

"I am ready," Femradiel suddenly said. "By the way, why can't you attack from your current position?"

"Because I need to use more mana to use Force and to boost the projectile," Ryan replied.

"Anyway, do I need to do anything?"

"No, I am going to offer you another pact," Femradiel replied. "This is like a second existence for me and since I divided my power, my name will be a bit different."

The ice Wyrm, Fem, wishes to become your familiar. Do you want to make a pact with her? Y/N.

Before Ryan could ask anything, that notification appeared before him... while he knew that Wyrm was like shorter versions of dragons, he still was surprised that Femradiel managed to create a body of a different species of a dragon. Ryan chose yes, and then suddenly, a small dragon that had half of the length of an adult human appeared before him. Compared to her previous figure that looked far more fearsome, the new appearance disappointed Ryan. Femradiel's new body was light blue and had some ice scales here and there, but overall. She didn't look much powerful or dangerous. In a sense, she looked cute... for a monster. Her eyes and wings looked like crystals, so Ryan felt a presence that kind seemed transcendental.

Fem (Ice Wyrm) – Lv 50

Health: 25.000

Mana: 40.000

Stamina: 20.000

Strength: 2000

Dexterity: 2000

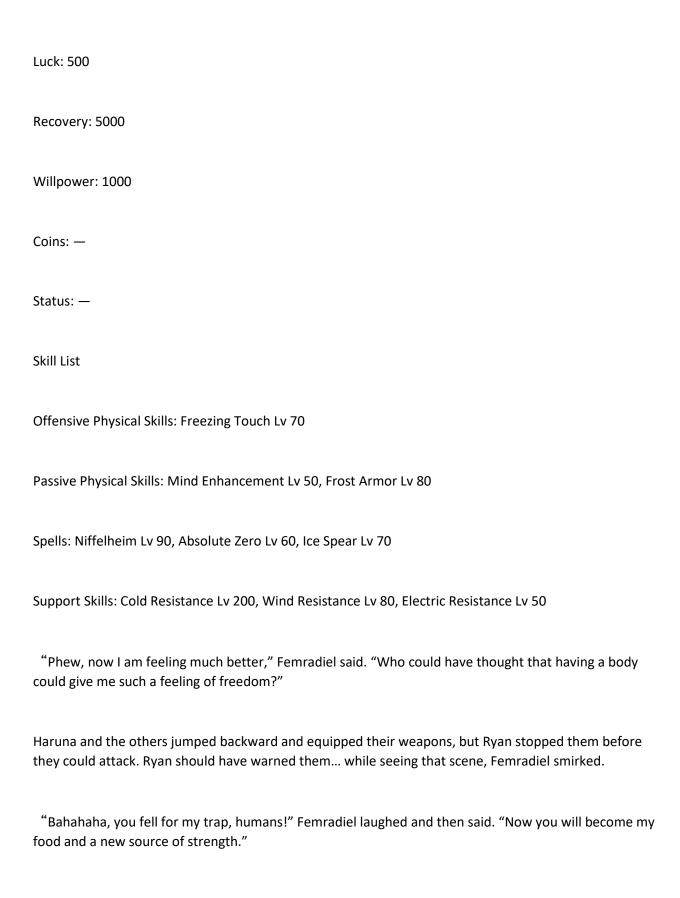
Speed: 1000

Intelligence: 3000

Endurance: 1000

Control: 1500

Mentality: 1500



Femradiel waited for Ryan's reactions, but he didn't do anything. His poker face was that hard to break... in the end. She just sighed in disappointment.

"You are no fun," Femradiel said. "By the way, don't take this seriously, ever."

"Any time you want to regain your freedom, you are free to attack me," Ryan said. "No hard feelings, you already know that I won't go down that easily, after all."

"I would like to avoid that," Femradiel said. "While I gain in terms of raw power, your ingenuity and nastiness make you a fearsome enemy. I wouldn't dare try to cross your path."

Ryan checked his status and confirmed that everything was normal, he even still could hear Femradiel's voice in his head, so it looked like nothing really changed. She explained that her spirit will always stay inside him. While that was a bit weird, she divided her power to create that body, and while she could exist outside Ryan's body, she ultimately was like a drone.

"Dragons sure have some useful skills, even though you lost your memories..." Ryan frowned. "I can't imagine how you can retain the knowledge to create a body like that."

"Dragons can reproduce by themselves and by interacting with other dragons," Femradiel said. "You can think that this new my body is my offspring."

Dragons really were weird...

Chapter 409

After heading South for a few hours, Ryan and the others finally could see the silver tigers' base and the bosses guarding the place. It really was a crazy sight to see hundreds of those creatures guarding a single place... even though they couldn't live in there.

Although Ryan explained that Femradiel was a monster that could talk and Ryan had tamed her, Haruna and the others were still quite fearful of her. Even though she was smaller, they could see her status and how much more powerful she was in comparison to them.

"If you get any closer, you will be noticed by them," Femradiel warned. "Also, while his position isn't half bad, you should prepare some countermeasures in case the monsters decide to go all-out and attack you."

"I don't think they will, that would leave their base completely unprotected and the black-tortoises would use that chance to strike," Ryan said. "Still, you have a point. What kind of trap should I prepare here?"

"You can focus on decreasing their numbers, leave the traps to me," Femradiel said. "My elemental attribute will be more efficient at slowing the bosses down."

After saying that, Femradiel began to fly around, and then she landed in some places for a few seconds, Ryan used Detection, and he found some powerful magic traps armed around. Regardless, now he just had to come up with the perfect plan of action. Two days have passed since he sealed the dungeons in which the silver tigers could get food, but they haven't despaired enough since they could eat the black tortoises.

"We can only attack from his position since we will find many more monsters of the other species if we move," Ryan rubbed his chin. "I wanted to make the black tortoises attack first, but after this long, I guess I can't wait for that."

Ryan looked behind him and saw Haruna and the survivors ready to crossbows. Their mana regeneration couldn't be compared to his, so it looked like they would have to rely on potions. While they brought some, it was only a small number in which they could carry in a small backpack. Since Ryan had the Discount skill, he decided to buy a lot more mana potions for them.

"This will be a loan," Ryan said. "I want you guys to pay me for this later. Anyway, just firing mindlessly won't work. So, divide yourselves in two groups. When the first group runs out of mana, the second group will step forward and attack while the first group uses mana potions."

Haruna nodded at that. While she also thought that it would be better to divide the groups in four to give them some time to relax and recover from the tension as well, she knew that it wasn't possible. While their archery skills leveled up quite a lot in the last day, it wasn't to the point where even twenty of them could win a fight against Furball.

In the end, Ryan spent two million coins in potions. It took a while, but he managed to create a stock of eighty thousand potions. Haruna and her friends couldn't help but stare in shock at the pile of potions.

"I guess this is it... I can't think of anything else to increase our chances right now," Ryan said.

Ryan only had a single doubt in his head. Should he use his DEX potions at the start of the fight and then slay as many bosses as possible in five minutes or save them for later in case something unexpected happens? In the end, he decided to save them for last since he was that paranoid. Besides, Deadly Aim and Perfect Aim were the only skills he needed to at least blind all the silver tigers.

Without wasting any more time, Ryan began to pull the level of his ballista. In quick succession, he fired several of the steel needles and blinded several monsters before the first ones finally could find his position. Haruna and the others barely could see the monsters five kilometers away, but they still clenched their teeth and fist when they sensed the monster's murderous gaze.

Dozens of them began to run toward Ryan, and that distance was something that they could cross in just a couple of seconds. However, Ryan's attack speed didn't decrease, and he proceeded to blind several more monsters before some of them opened their mouths to fire their lightning bolts. Ryan aimed the ballista at them, but before he could attack, Femradiel, who was flying above the group, fired some Ice Spears and stunned the monsters for a brief moment. Their attacks had been interrupted, and Haruna and her allies used that as a cue to join the fight.

"First group, Attack!" Haruna shouted.

Haruna pointed toward the monster they should focus their attack on, and she was smart enough to focus on the monsters that Ryan had blinded. They suffered critical damage and were bleeding profoundly, so they could be killed pretty fast. And so, they did. While some nervous survivors missed their targets, the vast majority of them hit the monster who was blind and could only run in a straight line. After doing some fast calculations, Ryan concluded that Haruna's groups could kill the silver tigers in around ten seconds if they focused their attacks. That wasn't half bad. The real problem was that they could only attack for that long with their mana pool.

[&]quot;First group, stand down!" Haruna shouted. "Second group, step forward!"

Haruna saved Ryan from some problems since he didn't even think of commanding them. In any case, she was doing a pretty neat job considering that she was also firing bolts non-stop. However, since Ryan was focusing on binding the enemies, eventually, they got even close to the point where they could just jump and smash everyone with their massive weight. Still, before that could happen, several ice spikes emerged from the ground and impaled the monsters' limbs. Femradiel's traps were finally working.

Chapter 410

In just a few minutes, Ryan, Femradiel, and the others managed to slay thirty or so bosses. However, since Femradiel didn't have much time to lay traps, the monsters were getting even closer than before. It was time for Ryan to do more than just blind the enemies.

"Wait for a while longer," Femradiel said. "I will slow them down a little bit more."

After saying that, Femradiel flew skyward only to return after a few seconds while flying toward the monsters at supersonic speeds. Since they were too focused on Ryan and the survivors, they never noticed her approach. A few moments before she could hit the ground, Femradiel used Absolute Zero and froze everything in a two-kilometer radius. While the bosses were too tough for them to become ice statues, at least their legs froze, and they were having a hard time freeing themselves. Ryan used that chance to blind and cause even more critical damage.

"Hey, you," Femradiel said to the boy Ryan had healed a few days ago. "Throw as many mana potions as you can at me. Be quick."

The boy nodded and obeyed Femradiel. While she was using Telekinesis to use the potions that Ryan bought, it wasn't nearly enough to recover her mana at a decent speed.

"I thought you still had some reserves of mana," Ryan said.

"I have, but this body is familiar, so I don't have access to that mana pool, I am outside your body, after all," Femradiel explained.

Ryan didn't have time to think if that made any sense or not. The monsters that were guarding the other sides of the camp finally appeared, and their numbers were insane... Ryan immediately equipped the

most powerful crossbows, but much to his surprise, the monster stopped their charge and then turned to face their Westside. Ryan did the same and saw a massive curtain of dust rising and approaching the silver tigers' camp. The black tortoises finally decided to join the fight.

"Femradiel... don't you think this is a bit too soon?" Ryan asked. "How many bosses have we killed in the last few days?"

"A little less than one hundred," Femradiel replied. "I also agree with you... either they are putting a lot of faith in us or they have another reason to attack the camp now."

Unfortunately, Ryan didn't have time to confirm anything. He just used that chance to slay as many Byakkos as possible while they were in shock. However, it didn't take long for them to understand what had happened. Ryan saw some flying monsters approaching from the Southern side of the camp. They were the Seiryu...

"Those dragons seem kind of weird," Femradiel said.

"I bet they would say the same about you," Ryan said.

In any case, another force joining the fight wasn't something that Ryan had expected... that complicated things quite a bit since his plan was to exterminate the white tigers and then decrease as much as possible the strength of the black tortoises. However, now that the azure dragons joined the fight, Ryan didn't know if things would go as he had planned... in fact, it looked like the problems wouldn't stop from appearing anytime soon.

"Something is coming from the camp... I can sense a lot of bloodlust being directed toward you," Femradiel said.

At the same time, Femradiel said that Ryan felt his body froze. He tried to muster all the strength in his body to resist the bloodlust, but in the end, before he could recover control of his body, suddenly, the scenario around him changed. Ryan noticed that the feeling of danger had disappeared when he appeared in what seemed to be a massive cave. Although there was no sunlight, Ryan could see his surroundings perfectly, but soon he wished that he couldn't. When Ryan looked around, he saw hundreds of decaying corpses moving toward him. Immediately, he began to fly to escape them, and then he noticed that he was alone in there. Femradiel, Furball, Haruna, and the others weren't nearby.

"A forced Teleportation?" Ryan bit his lips in annoyance. "Where am I?"

"You are in my territory now, and you will pay for getting on my way."

Ryan suddenly heard a voice coming from above, and he frowned when he saw a weird creature slowly approaching toward him. It had the voice of a woman and also the body of one, but it was much taller than any ordinary human being. It was like three meters tall, and its body was also covered in hair. Only the face was free of the hair, but Ryan only found a distorted decaying face of what seemed to be a pretty ugly female version of Frankenstein.

Yomotsu Shikome – Lv 380

Health: 70.000/70.000

Mana: 140.000/140.000

Stamina: 50.000/50.000

Strength: 100

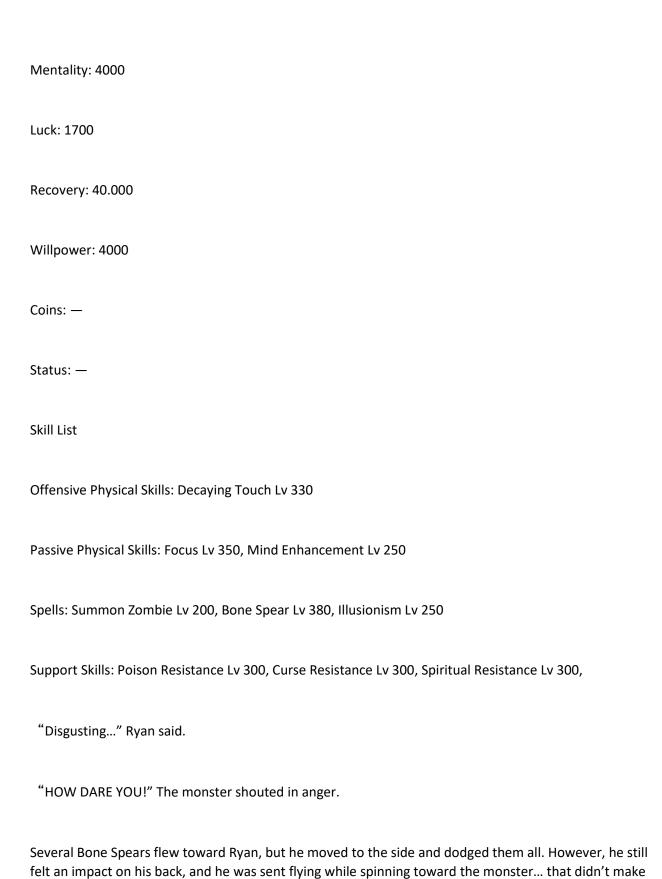
Dexterity: 2500

Speed: 1000

Intelligence: 7500

Endurance: 1500

Control: 3500



any sense, but before the creature could do anything, Ryan opened his mouth and used Ice Breath. His attack passed by the monster as if the creature hadn't even been there, but weirdly enough, the beast didn't do anything while he was attacking and slowing down.

"An illusion..." Ryan muttered.

Ryan didn't know what had happened, but if he had to guess, the boss of a dungeon teleported him toward their lair. He confirmed that after looking around for a single moment, and then he found a treasure box and the purple crystal... Still, the last part of the dungeon was too big, and it was underground. That wasn't a good match-up since Ryan didn't know anything about the monster in front of him...

Chapter 411

Ryan knew that the thing in front of him was an illusion. However, he couldn't locate the monster's body with Radar or Awareness. It was probably because the difference in skill was too high... despite that, the monster wasn't attacking blindly. Something was off...

"Can you hear me, Femradiel?" Ryan thought.

While Ryan's status didn't change, he couldn't talk with Femradiel. In any case, the situation was bad... The monster was trying to understand why the Bone Spears didn't damage Ryan, but it was only a matter of time before the creature realized that it had been a fluke thanks to his cape.

"You must be the one controlling the silver tigers," Ryan said, trying to buy some time while he thinks of a proper plan. "You used Summon Zombie to obtain control over them, didn't you?"

"You can try to stall for time as much as you want, nothing will change your fate," Yomotsu Shikome said.

"Well, if that is the case, why don't we take some time to talk, or are you afraid of something?" Ryan asked.

"You will pay for your insolence dearly, puny mortal," Yomotsu Shikome said.

"For a hag, you are quite impatient..." Ryan shrugged.

"DON'T CALL ME THAT!" Yomotsu Shikome shouted.

The monster fired much more Bone Spears. This time, dodging the attack wasn't an option just by flying. So, Ryan used Flash and appeared behind the illusion. He quickly turned around in order to have a good view of his surroundings, but he didn't find anything that might give him the location of the monster.

"That is what I call an overreaction," Ryan said while looking around. "You don't like being called hag?"

Yomotsu Shikome made several of those zombies fly toward Ryan, and when Ryan was about to use Flash again, the monsters exploded, and their bones flew toward all directions in the shape of some tiny bone needles. Ryan blocked the attack with his shield, but even so, he felt a powerful impact. He also heard a grunt coming from the monster, but he failed to pinpoint its location.

"I guess for the time being, this is the only way for me to cause damage," Ryan muttered.

Suddenly, Ryan felt a shiver and something touching his right shoulder. When he turned around, he didn't find anything, but then he felt pain passing through his right shoulder as if acid was burning everything when Ryan looked at it. He saw his shoulder rooting.

"Shit! Shit!" Ryan muttered in shock while sweating cold.

Ryan used Purification, but the rooting parts were increasing faster than he could delay them... the difference in level was that high. While biting his lips, Ryan made his decision... he pointed Thunder Lord Crossbow at his rooting shoulder and pulled the trigger. A big chunk of Ryan's flesh flew in the distance and the pain crossing his body froze his nerves. Ryan barely could keep his eyes open, and his arm was only hanging in the right place due to a small amount of flesh. He immediately used Full-Heal... Ryan recovered near-instantly, and the physical pain disappeared, but the mental pain didn't.

"You are going to pay for this..." Ryan muttered. "Do that again, hag. Show me what a piece of shit like you can do."

Instead of falling for Ryan's taunts, the monster made several other zombies explode near him. Ryan blocked the attack with his shield again and this time focused his senses on hearing the sound coming from behind him, but once again, he failed to pinpoint the origin of the grunt. The fucking monster was so good at illusion magic that it could even hide the noises caused by itself.

When Ryan felt a shiver again, he made six magic crossbows that were the exact copy of his Thunder Lord Crossbow appear around him, and each one pointing in a different direction. He fired them at the same time, and then the shiver stopped.

"... Fucking monsters," Ryan said after clicking his tongue.

Ryan prevented the attack, but the monster reacted on time to dodge his attacks. While that was annoying, at least he confirmed one of the few things that he knew about necromancers. They were weak physically speaking. While the monster had several tricks and much more health than Ryan, it still couldn't let itself get caught in his attacks. Maybe it was due to the fact that it recognized Ryan's strength, or it was because the monster didn't know anything about him...

Counterattacking will be difficult, but Ryan could do a few things to increase his chances, one of them was to fight near the ground. After destroying some zombies, he stopped levitating and then landed. At the same time, Ryan made his flame swords spin around him.

"Now she can only attack from the above..." Ryan thought. "At least if she plans to use her Decaying Touch."

Ryan just needed a single chance to obtain the opening that he wanted. However, the plan seemed too obvious, even from his perspective. Yomotsu Shikome tried to make other zombies explode near Ryan from all directions and try to disrupt his focus, but the monster failed.

Suddenly, a Bone Spear raising from the ground pierced Ryan's right foot. In an instant, Ryan lost almost half of his leg. He thought that he could prevent attacks from below by staying on ground level, but it looked that he was wrong.

Ryan closed the wound by using Heal, but he didn't do any more than that. He wasn't focused enough and decided to use his pain to help with that. That apparently worked since the spinning speed of his sword increased. In an instant, he made his weapons hit the zombies that were approaching him and then recovered some mana. Thanks to that, Ryan had a certain idea... after opening his mouth, Ryan used Ice Breath and spun around itself. It almost escaped from his sight... but he did notice a thin layer of ice forming around something invisible floating in the air.

Class: Hunter Lv 82 (+ 02 UP / Elementalist Lv 55 / Monk Lv 16 (–)

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

Rank: 101th

Health: 1822/1822 (5,26/s)

Mana: 2800/2800 (5,26/s)

Stamina: 2810/2810 (5,26/s)

Strength: 31 (+170) (+130)

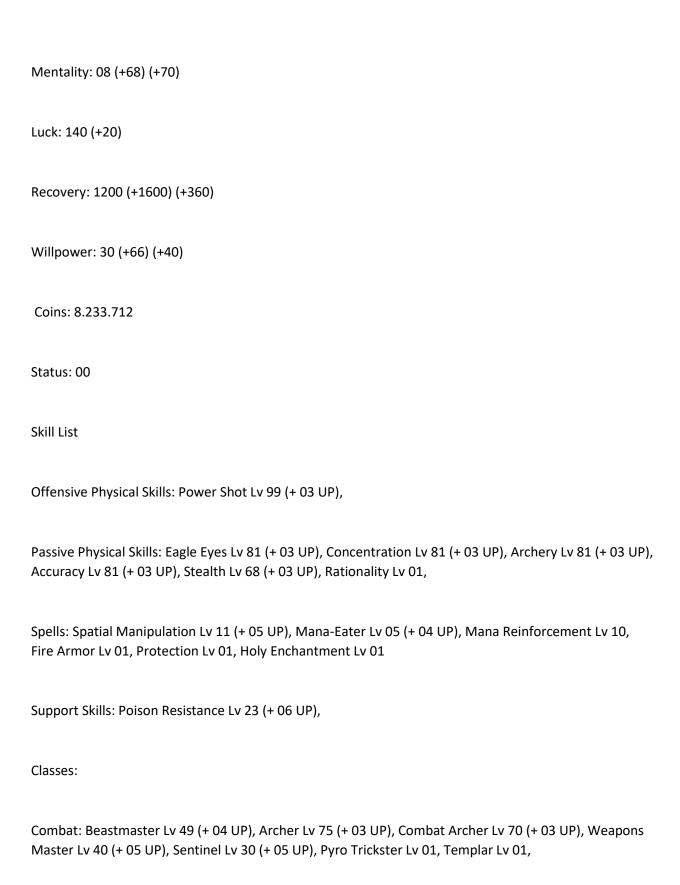
Dexterity: 2750 (+2299) (+220)

Speed: 140 (+1033) (+48)

Intelligence: 81 (+689) (+33)

Endurance: 28 (+143) (+160)

Control: 06 (+1115) (+10)



Non-Combatant: Blacksmith Lv 37 (+ 03 UP), Merchant Lv 25 (+ 05 UP), Whitesmith Lv 19 (+ 03 UP),

Race: Centaur, Lesser Dragon

Chapter 412

Before the monster could escape from the range of Ice Breath and could get rid of the layer of ice, Ryan summoned his Frozen Crossbow and then fired at the creature. The monster fired its Bone Spears to block the projectiles, but Ryan summoned another behind the beast and hit the creature's head. The beast finally appeared but then turned around and smashed the magic bow with those Bone Spears.

"Don't try to hide your ugly face," Ryan said. "Come and face me, if you don't want to kill me in a one-on-one fight, why did you teleport me to this hellhole?"

Yomotsu Shikome ignored Ryan's taunts again and then tried to disappear. However, the creature couldn't just disappear in the blink of an eye. Before the thing could succeed, Ryan fired an electric bolt and hit the monster's head, causing critical damage and snapping its neck. The beast looked at Ryan with its eyes full of hatred, but that only made him feel refreshed.

The monster tried to summon several Bone Spears, but Ryan stopped the beast with another electric bolt. In terms of attacking speed, Ryan was better, but he couldn't lose his focus. In the end, the monster decided to move away from Ryan slowly. He clicked his tongue when he noticed a purple mist slowly rising from the ground. The creature also could use poison without even moving its hands...

Ryan's health wasn't decreasing that fast, so that wasn't Yomotsu Shikome's specialty. He activated Regeneration and managed to counter the damage. Still, Ryan knew that he couldn't let the fight last for too long. That was too dangerous.

"I didn't want to go all out without knowing fully what that thing can do, but I don't have any other choice..." Ryan muttered.

Using all his potions was risky since the fight outside the dungeon was still happening, but Ryan wouldn't be able to help in any way if he dies. In the blink of an eye, Ryan summoned five magic bows

and attacked all the zombies around. Yomotsu Shikome tried to make them explode and cause some damage, but the creature failed.

Ryan stored away his magic weapons and then began to fire his electric bolts like there was no tomorrow. The beast tried to repel the attack with its own projectiles, but Ryan was much faster. His bolts destroyed the Bone Spears and eventually began to wound the boss.

Yomotsu Shikome screamed in agony, and somehow while ignoring Ryan's attacks, it managed to decrease the illumination inside the dungeon. Ryan activated Perfect Aim before the creature could disappear from his sight, but much to his surprise, the skill stopped working after a while

Ryan equipped his shield above himself and used Arrow Shower around himself as well. While it wouldn't cause much damage, at least it would let you notice when the monster tries to approach. Suddenly, Ryan felt a shiver and then jumped to the side, and then he heard the sound of Bone Spears hitting the ground. Ryan's annoyance was reaching a whole new level, but then it completely disappeared, and a smirk appeared on his face... Ryan used Skills Copy, and in the next moment, he saw the monster slowly approaching him.

Ryan quickly made his smile disappear and then faked his annoyance. When Yomotsu Shikome was close enough and tried to grab Ryan's neck, he filled the monster's face with his electric bolts.

"Let's fix your damn ugly face a little bit," Ryan said.

While Ryan's attack surprised the monster, it also surprised Ryan as well since he wasn't causing as much damage as he had expected. It was because he had temporarily lost all the passive skills that increased the power of his attacks. It was annoying, but there was nothing Ryan could do. Without the monster's skills, he couldn't see properly in that darkness.

Ryan tried to cause as much critical damage as possible, but even in that situation, the monster somehow managed to react and protect its face with both arms. While the bolts caused some damage, they didn't cause that much since the bolts turned into ashes after a few seconds.

While furrowing his eyebrows at that sight, he took out his Paralyzing Spear from his spatial storage and then made the weapon spin. He also used Mana Reinforcement and Holy Enchantment to make his weapon more durable and sharper and then fired at the monster. The beast tried to grab the weapon, but in the end, a necromancer-type monster would never have the physical capabilities to stop Ryan's attacks with their bare hands.

The spear pierced the monster, and its wounds began to burn thanks to Holy Enchantment. Yomotsu Shikome screamed in agony again while her face was distorted by anger and pain. In the end, even Ryan's Paralyzing Spear became ashes, but not before Ryan filled the monster with electric bolts.

"You are going to pay for this," Yomotsu Shikome said.

"You already said that," Ryan said and then put some bolts on the monster's eye sockets. "In the end, you are just a fake as well, huh. I will wait for you expectantly once your dungeon reaches the appropriate level."

After saying that, Yomotsu Shikome's health dropped to zero, and the monster fell dead on the ground. Its body began to disintegrate with an astonishing speed, but not even that made Ryan's mood improve. While he won, the dungeon master was still alive somewhere, and it was probably a much stronger version of that monster... just thinking about that was really annoying.

You obtained 200,000 coins.

Undead Magic Staff (Unholy)

Effect: It grants you the chance to use the skill Cursed Ray Lv 100. The spell consumes fifty points of mana per second but can decrease all of the target's attributes by a certain percentage over time.

Durability: 100/100

It was a coincidence that the monster dropped such an item, but Ryan still felt satisfied by that convenient coincidence. Hopefully, a weapon like that will be useful against undead creatures as well because the first one that Ryan faced caused too many problems...

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Ryan headed toward the treasure chest in a hurry, but he was stopped because some zombies began to spawn near the purple crystal. He killed them quickly, but that only confirmed his theory that the boss he just killed was just an ordinary monster being controlled by the dungeon master.

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

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 Shinobi!

You obtained the following skills: Waterwalking, Dual Wield, and Substitution.

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

Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Waterwalking.

Effect: It grants you the power to walk and run-on surface of the water

Cost: 05 mana per second

You obtained 01 status point.

Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Dual Wield

Effect: It increases the power of your attacks by one percent per level when using a weapon in each hand.

You obtained 01 status point.

Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Substitution.

Effect: It grants you the power to trade places with a selected object. You need to touch the predetermined object before using the skill. The range in which the skill can work equals the level of the skill multiplied by fifty meters.

Cost: 100 mana.

You obtained 01 status point.

Ryan didn't have time to waste thinking about what he should do, so he quickly selected his new class. However, before he could leave the dungeon, he got another surprise.

Congratulations! You have reached the rank of the 100 strongest humans! Keep clearing dungeons and defeating monsters to raise your rank, and you might receive some nice rewards!

Current Rank: 95th

You obtained a Domain Stone.

Ryan had forgotten that reaching the top 100 of the strongest on Earth had been one of his goals as well. In any case, he thought that it would take a while longer for that to happen... while that was useful, Ryan didn't have time to use the domain stoner or learn about its quirks and perks.

After a few minutes of flying, Ryan finally left the dungeon and noticed that it was already dark. However, he couldn't sense or see any signs of the battlefield. It looked like he had been teleported to a pretty far away dungeon.

[&]quot;WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?" Femradiel asked via telepathy.

"··· I didn't think I could almost go deaf by hearing a scream inside my head," Ryan frowned. "As you can see, I was teleported by a boss to their dungeon. Anyway, tell me which direction I should go, I have no idea where I am."

"Head north, you are near one of the four dungeons that is around the capital of this country," Femradiel replied. "But you need to be careful since some of the azure dragons are alive and they are on your path."

Ryan immediately began to fly toward that direction while he analyzed what happened. Most likely, specific skills couldn't work while he was inside a dungeon. That was why despite the pact, he still lost the connection temporarily with Femradiel. That wasn't very important. What was important was that somehow Yomotsu Shikome was controlling the silver tigers and their dungeon was actually her dungeon.

"I guess she defeated that species and took over their world," Ryan nodded to himself. "Since she is a necromancer, she can easily replicate the bosses and the mobs. As for why the Japanese were fooled by her so easily, it was probably because she masqueraded the corpses with her illusion magic... if they had seen their true form, they would have known that they were making pacts with an undead monster and not with one of the four creatures. Not that I can see any real difference between them..."

Regardless, Ryan got in her way, and that was why she tried to kill Ryan before her minions could be wiped out. Now Ryan just had to confirm if the other three species of monsters were being controlled by other dungeon masters as well, and why they would go that far to fool humans. There was also the question of why the dungeon masters made their dungeons appear so close to Tokyo.

After a while, Ryan managed to see some signs of battle and some creatures flying in the Northern sky. Without wasting time, Ryan summoned his magic bows and began to charge several Power Shots. He had to kill all of them at the same time because flying enemies were annoying by themselves. Still, in a group, they were much more dangerous.

When the flying dragons finally noticed Ryan's approach, he said hi to them by firing his magic bows at their faces. His first wave of attacks caused massive damage to the point where the azure dragons began to lose altitude. Femradiel noticed that was Ryan's doing, and she also bombarded the beasts with Ice Spears. Thanks to their combined attacks, Ryan and Femradiel knocked down the dragons on the silver tigers camp, and Rya was close enough to see that they were really zombies.

The silver tiger's camp was completely destroyed, and the parts that haven't been knocked down were burning. Ryan and Femradiel managed to defeat the few azure dragons that had decided to join the fight, and the silver tigers had been decimated. However, the black tortoises were still coming alongside the humans who joined them.

"What the hell..." Ryan frowned when he saw Haruna and her friends forming a circle around some prisoners.

By the look of things, Haruna wanted to save those guys now that she had more or less a good idea and explanation to make them understand that they had been fooled, but there was a problem: the prisoners didn't look like they wanted to be saved.

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In the end, Ryan decided to ignore Haruna and the others and then headed toward where Femradiel, Furball, and his Steel Eagle were fighting against some black tortoises. Somehow, they managed to hold the monsters back since they still had some mana potions left, but those were about to end.

Ryan equipped his Thunder Lord Crossbow and began to hit the faces of the slow monsters. In the end, Ryan could see dozens of corpses of those creatures, but only a few handfuls of them were still alive... which was odd.

"What happened here?" Ryan asked while frowning and looking around.

"We struggled quite a bit when you disappeared," Femradiel replied. "Some of Haruna's friends died thanks to the massive battle between three species of monsters. I tried to hold them back as much as possible, but with this body, that was impossible. However, some weird guys appeared out of nowhere and protected them. Not only that, they also made the black tortoises back down. Those are the bosses that stayed behind to protect the retreat of the monsters that survived."

"... Where are they?" Ryan asked while frowning.

"They were teleported to this place and when they concluded that we could hold the monsters back, they disappeared," Femradiel said.

"That is suspicious..." Ryan said.

"That is just a part of the story," Femradiel said. "Those guys said that their leader is guarding Tokyo and he asked Haruna to protect the humans who joined the monsters' side because he knows a way to free them."

That was even more suspicious... if someone had that power, why didn't he use it sooner? Ryan thought that Haruna was more intelligent than that since she didn't fall for the monsters' cheap promises, but it looked like being saved by an unknown hero just when her team was about to be wiped out changed her mind a little bit.

In any case, before he could confirm the rest of those facts, Ryan helped Femradiel and his monster to kill the remaining black tortoises. Ryan sighed in relief when the battle was over, but he was a bit unsatisfied in the end since he didn't gain as many coins as he had imagined. He missed a good part of the fight, after all.

When Haruna saw Ryan approaching, she couldn't help but get a little pale. He seemed pretty unsatisfied about her current position, after all. In any case, Ryan also confirmed the resolution in her eyes. Putting the sweet words of an unknown figure aside, she truly wanted to save the Japanese survivors who were fooled by the monsters.

"It looks like you made your decision," Ryan said while looking around and grabbing some weapons with his Telekinesis.

"Yes," Haruna said.

"I won't question your decision, but that doesn't mean I will let some humans who might stab me in the back stay behind of me," Ryan said. "I hope you haven't been fooled like them, so I wish you good luck."

"You fought Yomotsu Shikome, didn't you?" Haruna asked.

"... How do you know that?" Ryan frowned.

"The soldiers of the guardian of Tokyo told us," Haruna said. "At the very beginning, he noticed that something was amiss with those dungeons and once he obtained a certain power, the guardian confirmed that the four bests were being controlled by other monsters. He knew all that, and yet he didn't do anything. Are you fine in trusting someone like that?"

"He did what he could, he protected a good number of people in Tokyo," Haruna said. "His soldiers said that he wants to talk with you, since you gave him the chance to deal a massive blow on the monsters' force. If you head to Tokyo, he says that he will welcome you and create a temporary alliance, but only if you go now."

"Why the hurry?" Ryan asked.

"I don't know, but his soldiers seemed a bit angry when they were talking about you," Haruna said.

"... I will think about it," Ryan said and then headed toward where the azure dragons were.

Without wasting any time, Ryan dug the dragons' hearts and stored them inside his storage dimension. Meanwhile, Furball and the Steel Eagle were eating a good part of their bodies.

"This was tiresome, so I am going to return if you don't mind," Femradiel said, and then she turned into a sphere of light and entered Ryan's body.

"What do you think of that, Femradiel?" Ryan asked.

"My guess is that those soldiers sounded displeased because you killed too many survivors here," Femradiel replied. "While they were on the enemies' side, it looks like there is really a way to save them. That was within their plans: to save the entire population that joined the monsters' side, but you made a mess out of the things from their perspective."

Whoever was the so-called guardian of Tokyo, he certainly was a troublesome individual. He wanted to thank Ryan for giving him a chance to strike back the monsters, but he was also angry at him because he

killed the humans who joined the monsters' side. In the end, Ryan decided to ignore such troublesome individuals, nothing good would come out from joining forces with people that could only see their own problems.

"Anyway, why didn't you realize that the silver tigers were zombies?" Ryan asked. "My Illusion Resistance is at a low-level, so it couldn't be helped, but I was expecting more coming from you."

"My skill isn't that high leveled either," Femradiel said. "Illusion users never last long while fighting me since I freeze them all in an instant."

"... It looks like the other monsters are also being controlled by other dungeon masters, did you notice anything different with them?" Ryan asked.

"No, but it is pretty obvious at this point that there are some similarities between them," Femradiel replied. "Regardless, even if we didn't notice, nothing would change, right?"

"Yeah... I still would have to kill them to clear the dungeons," Ryan nodded.

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Ryan forgot to ask Haruna a few things about Yomotsu Shikome, but in the end, he decided that he already knew plenty about her abilities. She was a necromancer that could use illusion magic. That was all that he needed to know. In any case, now Ryan had to attack the weakened black tortoises. However, he decided to rest for the night, but he just used some spells on himself to level up his resistance after a while.

"Self-harm, huh," Femradiel said. "You are crossing a dangerous road."

"It is not like I have any other choice," Ryan said. "I can't let myself get wounded in the middle of real fights."

"It looks like you have a hard time against that undead creature, you could have easily solved the problem by using Draconic Transformation," Femradiel said.

"I solved the situation without relying on it and that is all that matters," Ryan said.

That had been a pretty unpleasant night, considering that Ryan had decided to just rest. Regardless, while it was only natural that Ryan would be good at dodging, even that has its demerits. It doesn't happen often, but it happens. Even weak attacks cause a lot of damage since Ryan, pretty much on a daily basis, faced monsters much more powerful than him.

"I have to take a few hours every day to train my resistances," Ryan got up when the sun began to rise. "Otherwise, it will come a day where just the blast of wind caused by the movements of some monsters will make me fly dozens of meters."

After resuming his journey, Ryan found a few dungeons here and there, and much to his surprise, they weren't being guarded. However, he found that those places have spawned thousands of monsters.

"It looks like the humans working with the black tortoises caused some dungeon breaks before they left this area," Ryan said, slightly annoyed. "They don't want to make things easier for us."

"This is a good opportunity for me," Femradiel said. "Let Furball, the eagle and me fight against some of those to gain some mana. We are not the only ones fighting here, so we don't have to rush ahead without making some preparations, right?"

Ryan considered the proposal. The monsters were only some salamanders, so Femradiel had the elemental advantage, and Furball was strong enough to sweep the ground with those monsters. Ryan also needed more essences to make the special potions, so that really was an excellent opportunity for everyone.

"Go on," Ryan said after using some potions on Femradiel, Furball, and the Steel Eagle.

While his pets were playing with the salamanders, Ryan used that chance to sell some of the crossbows he lent to Haruna and the others. He also used Mana-Eater on others to give a hand to Femradiel. Even though she was weaker than before, she still had been pivotal in the last fight.

"I guess I need more of them," Ryan said while looking at his three pets. "The Steal Eagle eventually won't be able to keep up with Furball and Femradiel, so it looks like that I reached a point where some summoned creatures and tamed monsters aren't that useful in small numbers."

Relying too much on monsters wasn't something Ryan wanted to do since his best skills could only shine against hordes of them, but in the end, he couldn't deny how useful Furball and Femradiel were... he needed more creatures like them. Still, finding those that had a lot of potential would be difficult. After all, Ryan only found a single creature that decided to make a pact with him in six months.

While Ryan was thinking about that, his Awareness alerted him of a presence behind him. Ryan summoned his shield and turned around, only to see three men wearing traditional Japanese red armor and carrying two katanas on their waist. He immediately recognized those... that was what Femradiel mentioned as appearing out of nowhere.

"What do you want?" Ryan asked.

"... Haruna and the others already reached the capital," One of the guard-looking men said. "Our master wants to know why you didn't come with them."

"I am not interested in working with you guys," Ryan said.

"We will pass the message to our master," The guard said. "If you don't want to work with us, that is fine. However, our master would like to ask you not to kill any more survivors."

"That will depend if they will point their weapons at me or not," Ryan said.

The guards' gaze on Ryan grew more severe, but they didn't do anything. After a few moments, they just vanished in the air, and Ryan couldn't feel their presence with Awareness anymore.

"Are you fine with that?" Femradiel asked. "Maybe you should take a look at the guy."

"I am not interested," Ryan said.

"That is fine, but you should at least try to play nice with your friends in their backyard," Femradiel said. "As far as I can see, you already became enemies of too many monsters, you don't need to become enemies of humans as well."

"You sure seem like a pacifist, even though you tried to devour me the first time we met," Ryan said.

Despite saying that, Ryan considered Femradiel's advice. While he claimed that he put his anger on check, it looked like it wasn't that simple. He was naturally predisposed to distrust and be rude toward others that he couldn't understand.

"While fighting with my group alone, things will probably proceed well," Ryan nodded to himself.

"Unless the so-called guardian of Tokyo isn't an idiot, he will probably attack the monsters' base at the same moment I decide to attack. However, I need to prepare some countermeasures in case Seiryu and Suzaku decide to join the fight."

That would be hard since Ryan didn't take a proper look at those monsters yet, but based on what he heard from Haruna, Seiryu was a dragon that used wind and water, and Suzaku is essentially a firebird. It wasn't a lot of intel, but it was a start...

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After a while, Ryan decided that it was time to move on. While Femradiel was right and that they weren't fighting alone and didn't need to hurry, they couldn't just let the monsters prepare the terrain in their favor. Besides, the chance of dealing with the first strike was a valuable one, and Ryan had no intention of letting the monsters have that.

Before finding the camp of the black tortoises, Ryan found two other dungeons in which the survivors caused dungeon breaks. Ryan had a hard time keeping his anger in check since that was a golden chance to obtain a class almost for free, but in the end, he calmed down. He couldn't change his moral code because of that... until the very end. He was determined to kill only those who point their weapons at him.

"It looks like the guys around are pretty creative," Ryan said while looking around at his next target.

Ryan didn't find that in their status screen, but it looked like the black tortoises also could use Earth Manipulation. Their base was basically a massive fortress made of dirt. While it didn't look that resilient, at least it worked well to hide their numbers and their secrets. Those creatures created something like a labyrinth in which they could move around in a terrain surrounded by three mountains. Ryan could see several black tortoises in the several entrances of those places, but even if he kills them, Ryan won't have the chance to attack the others because the corpses would work as a defense line.

"The path that might projectiles have to cross will be blocked and thanks to the covered labyrinth, I can't even see more than a few monsters..." Ryan furrowed his eyebrows. "This will be a pain."

Now and then, Ryan could feel that he was being watched, and Femradiel confirmed that it was the same person who used Clairvoyance on him a few days ago. The guardian of Tokyo has his eyes on him, but not in a positive manner. Ryan was certain that unless he caused a massive blow to the monsters, he wouldn't attack the monsters' exposed back, which was why he couldn't trust in someone like him.

"What is the plan now, Ryan?" Femradiel asked.

"I am still thinking about it," Ryan said. "Still, even though it looks a bit annoying and time consuming, maybe we can do some damage while sealing the entrances of their hideouts and wait for the monsters to starve."

"That seems like a proper plan, but we know that you aren't that patient," Femradiel said.

"That is right," Ryan nodded. "I guess we need to destroy a good part of their base in order to expose the monsters. While they are big and sturdy, they are slow and not that powerful when it comes to long-ranged attacks. So, kitting them seems like a pretty decent plan."

The only problem was the fact that Ryan was obviously faster than the black tortoises. Unless they are really stupid, the monsters won't chase him. With that in mind, destroying their base was something that could be ignored since a few of them could repair everything. Ryan had to force the monsters to leave their hideout in one way or the other. There was actually a good way to make that happen...

"Which direction is the nearest dungeon, Femradiel?" Ryan asked.

"At your five o'clock," Femradiel replied.

"You should come and join the party," Ryan said. "Let's leave many surprises along the way for the monsters in that place."

Although Ryan said that, he waited for the sun to set before he finally left his position and headed toward the dungeon while laying many magic traps between the dungeon and the black tortoise's camp. Creating enough traps to decimate an army of those creatures was out of chance, but that was the real goal. Ryan just needed to cause some damage and make them expose themselves.

"You should be more careful because I can't sense things very well inside those dungeons," Femradiel said. "The concentration of mana can interrupt several skills; thus, I am unable to detect the number of enemies inside it. Based on what you told me, it is very likely that the boss is also using some spell to reinforce such a trait of the dungeon."

"It is all right, if my guess is right, another creature like that hag is also controlling the black tortoises," Ryan said. "So, if a monster goes as far as controlling massive monsters like that, the boss wouldn't use the dungeon to spawn several copies of itself, they would use the same thing as Fenrir did."

"There is no point in mentioning enemies that I don't know of," Femradiel said. "If you don't remember, part of our contract prevents me from reading your memories."

Ryan explained the time he faced Fenrir and the army of dire wolves, and as expected, Femradiel understood the power of that ability pretty easily. The dungeon master selected a single boss from his army, and the other bosses that spawn during the dungeon breaks were only mass of power, or shadows that the original boss could absorb to get stronger. While that kind of technique has some limits, it was undoubtedly useful to make the bosses reach high levels.

"So, you think the boss of the next dungeon did the same because they are a specialist at controlling monsters instead of fighting by themselves?" Femradiel asked. "I guess that does make sense since creatures that have that kind of power hold the advantage against other creatures that can't even speak."

While that did make sense, there was something that Ryan couldn't understand yet, why the dungeon masters apparently had similar powers? Was it a coincidence that they were controlling four species of monsters that were well-known in Japanese mythology? Why are they fighting against each other, and why are they trying to invade Tokyo? Ryan started to think that he shouldn't have decided to stay away from Tokyo's guardian because he probably had the answer to those questions.

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Ryan and Femradiel spent the night creating traps and laying them on strategic points to delay the black tortoises. However, even though Ryan rested for quite a while in the last few hours, he started to feel quite tired. At some points, he even fell asleep while standing for a few seconds. Much to his surprise, even his pets fell asleep. Femradiel wasn't an exception.

"Hey, Femradiel..." Ryan shook his head to get rid of his sleepiness. "You only left my body a few hours ago, how come you are so tired?"

"Mmm? I don't know... ah, this is bad..." Femradiel suddenly said, and soon after, Ryan confirmed that something was off.

Congratulations! The skill Sleep Resistance has leveled up.

"Something is trying to make us fall asleep... this body isn't strong enough to withstand the spell," Femradiel said.

Considering that Femradiel didn't warn Ryan of any presence, either she didn't sense any, or the sleep spell was affecting her too much. Ryan decided to call her back, but even inside his body, Femradiel still was sleepy.

"If you move away... from the dungeon... you should be alright... I think..." Femradiel said, and then Ryan didn't hear her voice anymore.

Ryan tried to use Purification, but his sleepiness didn't leave his body. Making Furball and the Steel Eagle fly consumed a lot of his mana, but in the end, Ryan managed to find a good place to hide them.

"So reliable you guys are now..." Ryan forced a weak smile. "I suppose it can't be helped... the next boss really wants to fight me one-on-one."

Ryan wouldn't dare to attack his pets with magic to keep them awake, but he didn't hesitate at firing some Electric Bullets at his hand to make himself get rid of a little bit of his sleepiness. That indeed was a crazy powerful sleep spell since not even Ryan that skipped several nights of sleep in the last six months, could endure it.

"Well, at least this is proof that the black tortoises won't be able to attack me from behind." Ryan shrugged.

Ryan cursed his own carelessness. He should have increased his resistance against negative effects, he found some tomes that could teach him those skills, but since fighting against enemies that could use it rarely happened, he never felt the sense of urgency to do so.

Regardless, it was too late for complaints, and Ryan couldn't back down against a boss of a tier-three dungeon. His pride wouldn't allow it. While heading West, Ryan had to damage himself with electric attacks pretty often to stay awake. He couldn't fall asleep since the boss would use that chance to kill him. Ryan used that eagerness to make Ryan fall asleep to confirm that the boss was another weakling at close combat. Yomotsu Shikome caused him a lot of trouble. Still, ultimately, Ryan never feared a creature that relied on tricks like invisibility, illusion, and necromancy to fight.

After a while, Ryan finally realized what was making him feel sleepy... it was a song. A magic song that grew louder and louder the more he approached the dungeon. Ryan hurried to finish off the beast as fast as possible, but the very moment he touched the entrance of the dungeon, the song grew more powerful, and Ryan fell on the ground. Mustering all his willpower, Ryan took out one of his flame swords and made it burn his leg. That woke him up, but only to the point where his eyes couldn't close. The rest of his body was so heavy that Ryan couldn't move a single inch.

"I think I need lots of caffeine..." Ryan said.

Using Telekinesis, Ryan got up. While the pain was preventing him from falling asleep, that wasn't nearly enough. Fighting in that condition was suicide, so Ryan opened the dungeon shop and tried to look for anything that might help him solve that problem. Unfortunately, Ryan didn't find any obvious solution. Either his mind wasn't working properly, or there wasn't an easy solution to be found in the dungeon shop.

"Come on, Ryan... think... use this poor excuse of a brain that you have," Ryan muttered.

It would be great if Femradiel could wake up for a single moment and make Ryan's Sleep Resistance

level up, but he wasn't counting on that. In the end, Ryan had to improvise. That didn't seem like a good idea, but he decided to use Temporary Transformation and turn into a black tortoise. Ryan positioned

himself properly, and when he used the skill, the shell on his back completely blocked the dungeon's

entrance. Even though Ryan decided to transform into the mob form of the creature, he couldn't move a single inch since he now was ten meters long and weighed over several tons. However, he managed to

block the sound coming out of the dungeon.

"Aw... come on... now my back is asleep," Ryan sighed.

Apparently, blocking the song wasn't enough. Ryan wasn't that sleepy anymore, but his body still could

absorb the sound and fall asleep. It was just a temporary solution that bought him some seconds to

think of something else.

"Song... song of sleep... sleep song... wind?" Ryan frowned.

Even in that form, Ryan still could use his skills, so he used Wind Manipulation and managed to block the

sleep song from leaving the dungeon. However, due to the level of the spell, a lot of mana was being used. Ryan needed something more refined and efficient to be able to enter the dungeon and not fall

asleep in the middle of the battle.

Wind Armor tome

Effect: Casts an armor made of wind around your whole body to increase your wind attacks' power and

decrease the damage of the same attribute from your enemies by one percent per level. When active,

the skill increases your speed and dexterity by ten points per level.

Cost: 25 mana per second

Price: 1.000.000 coins.

It was quite a costly solution to that problem, but in the end, Ryan didn't hesitate to use the skill, and when he learned, Ryan already noticed a difference.

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Ryan couldn't use Mana Reinforcement to increase the intensity of Sleep Resistance, but he could use it to increase the power of Wind Armor and thus make it level up faster. After a few hours, the skill reached level ten, and now Ryan could stand without relying on Telekinesis.

"I can't underestimate this foe just because it is a creature that would rather kill me in my sleep than in an actual fight," Ryan muttered. "To be able to use such a spell in such a vast area and for so long... this isn't an enemy that I can face while getting ahead of myself."

While Sleep Song was troublesome, it couldn't actually damage Ryan. So, after a while, he felt confident that he could enter the dungeon. For some reason, the interior of the place was completely dark, and when Ryan used fire to illuminate the place, he understood why. The walls and the ground were completely covered in vegetation and vines. Ryan tried to analyze if that belongs to a monster or something, but he didn't get any response. Those didn't belong to a beast. The vegetation belonged to the biome of another world...

"Wait a minute... Why didn't I find any monster until now?" Ryan suddenly stopped and questioned himself. "The boss should know that I am approaching. So why?"

Ryan's Radar and Awareness were already working since he was inside the dungeon, but he couldn't feel the presence of a single monster. The place was huge, just like Yomotsu Shikome's dungeon, but that doesn't mean the place was free of monsters. The more he fought them. The less Ryan could understand the dungeon masters.

Eventually, the Sleep Song ended, and that confirmed Ryan's previous thought. The boss understood that such tactics wouldn't work on Ryan any longer, but despite that, Ryan didn't deactivate Wind Armor since he could fall for a trap at any minute.

After a while, Ryan eventually reached the last part of the dungeon, and he saw a massive underground forest. Although he was hoping to find another undead creature's lair, everything he saw was just a full of life forest. Ryan even found some springs and birds flying around while chirping.

"Another illusion..." Ryan said.

"Not quite, this is just a small part of our paradise here on your planet."

Ryan heard a feminine voice and then saw a figure sitting on a throne made of flowers. Weirdly enough, he saw two thrones, but only one of them was being used. Much to Ryan's surprise, Ryan found a blonde, green-eyed beauty sitting in that place. She had a great figure and was also wearing a dress that seemed to be made of flowers. For an instant, Ryan thought the boss was a human, but he shook his head when he saw the pointy ears of the creature.

Titania - Lv 420

Health: 50.000/50.000

Mana: 180.000/180.000

Stamina: 90.000/90.000

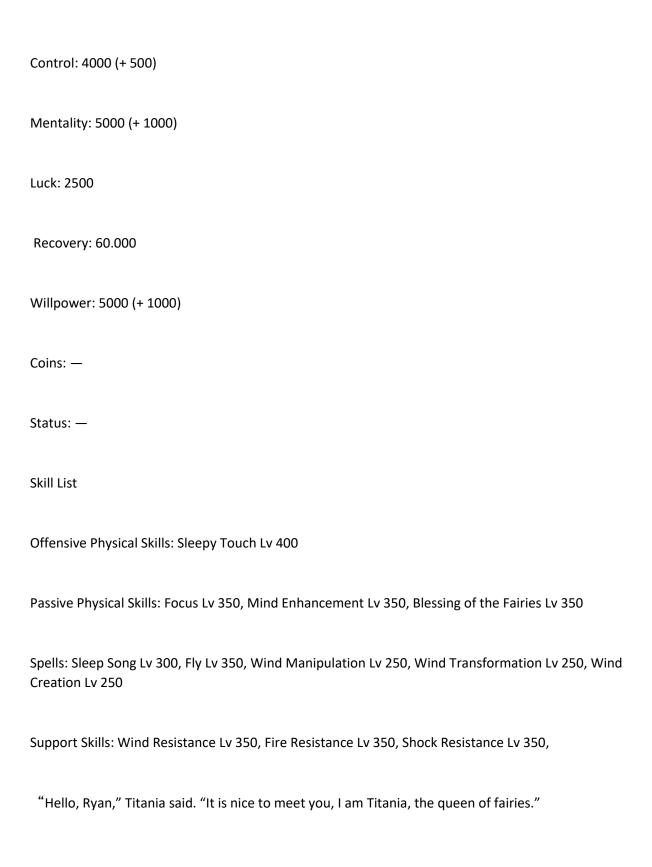
Strength: 100

Dexterity: 2500 (+ 300)

Speed: 2000 (+ 200)

Intelligence: 8000 (+ 1500)

Endurance: 2500 (+ 200)



Ryan didn't say anything. He just pointed his charged crossbow at her and then fired. However, with a powerful gust of wind, Titania made the projectile change its direction and hit the dungeon's ceiling. Ryan furrowed his eyebrows in annoyance, which had been five minutes charged Power Shot, after all. As expected, that would be another tough fight.

"There is no need to be uncivilized here," Titania said. "Let's talk for a while, I am sure we can reach an agreement. Fairies love peace and I don't want to dirty this place with blood."

"Should I sleep while we talk?" Ryan asked. "It looks like you really want to put me to sleep, after all. I am sure that negotiating when the other side can't do anything is very advantageous."

"Well, you can't blame me for being cautious," Titania shrugged. "You killed Yomotsu Shikome, and while she is my enemy, I still don't know what your goal is."

"Absolute monster extermination," Ryan replied while charging another bolt with Power Shot and Mana Reinforcement.

"Don't be unreasonable, you know that is impossible," Titania smiled as if she had heard a very amusing thing. "It doesn't matter what you or anyone else do, Earth is changing and returning back to its perfect era. Humans can only strive to survive, there is nothing else to

be done."

"Perfect era?" Ryan frowned. "What are you talking about?"

"I guess it is only natural that the humans forgot about this," Titania said. "It has been quite a while, after all. What would you think if I told you that a long time ago creatures like around walked on Earth alongside mortals like you?"

"I would say that is bullshit," Ryan replied.

"You are truly amusing, Ryan," Titania smiled again. "But that is the undeniable truth. You should have already noticed by this point that the myths and legends of old, aren't actually just fairy tales and stories

made up by your elders to make children behave. We existed a long time ago with humans, no... we coexisted with them. We gave them knowledge and to some extent power, some of us even married humans and gave birth to special mortals... that happened a long time ago, in a period of human story called: the age of gods."

Ryan couldn't help smiling scenically while hearing all that, but despite that, something inside him was telling Ryan that Titania wasn't making some crazy lies...

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"I don't know all the details since I haven't been around since the beginning, but I can guarantee you that the age of gods existed," Titania said. "It was a period where humans prospered thanks to us and eventually, they stood above the other mortal creatures, also thanks to us, but after some incidents, you people began to lose faith in us. That led to a situation where we couldn't exist on the physical realm of Earth anymore. That is why we left..."

"I find it hard to believe that people still believed in creatures like you after this long," Ryan said. "So, how come did you guys manage to return?"

"Mana is overflowing on Earth again, that is why we can return now," Titania replied.

"However, since pretty much all of us want to return, we can't have the same power as we possessed before. Nostalgia is a powerful thing, after all."

"I can see that... you are feeling pretty nostalgic of killing and fooling humans, huh," Ryan said.

"The situation is dire, so we had to take some drastic measures, but as you can see, I tried to save the lives of as many humans as possible," Titania said. "I even gave them powers to survive."

"Yes, just like Yomotsu Shikome, you truly are pretty generous," Ryan shrugged.

"Like I said, the situation is quite dire," Titania said. "If we don't do anything, other creatures will take over the Earth first and prepare a terrain where they will have total advantage. You see, pacifist species

like us are pretty rare nowadays. I can see the human potential, that is why I am talking to you, that is why I am doing what I am doing."

"You are stalling for time because you think we have potential?" Ryan frowned. "Does that mean that nothing is heading to the dungeon right at this moment?"

"... You heard me, Ryan," Titania lost the smile on her face for a moment. "These are hard times even for us, we have to prepare for every single possible outcome."

"I can respect that, in any case, since we are already talking, why don't you tell me why you guys returned now?" Ryan asked. "After so long, why do you guys still are interested on Earth when not a single human remembers or respects you? What triggered your return?"

"We noticed that mana would flow on Earth again, that is why we decided to return, that being said I can only talk for my species and despite everything, Earth will always be our home planet," Titania replied. "In essence, we returned because we obtained a chance to do so."

"Can you explain the system? Things were like that back then?" Ryan asked.

"We had access to the system, but humans didn't," Titania replied. "That is to be expected though, since too many things changed in the last few thousand years."

Titania didn't seem like she was lying. Even if she was trying to stall for time, her story made too much sense from Ryan's perspective.

Demons, myths, and humans from legends... all of them were walking on Earth now. While some creatures seemed weird, they were more or fewer creatures that humans have registered in their history in a sense. They didn't look like aliens, so Ryan assumed that whatever was happening to Earth, it was due to those three types of creatures. It wasn't an alien race or something that had suspicious plans for Earth and the human race. In a sense, that was a relief.

"Now is the time where you try to convince me to join your side, right?" Ryan asked. "Let's hear what you have for me before I make my decision."

"I can offer you everything you always wanted," Titania said. "My eldest daughter is many times more astonishing than any female you might on Earth, you will have my permission to make a contract with her and you will have absolute control over and thus she will never betray you. While you are not one of us, you can become one of our most influential generals, all you have to do is to make sure that we will be the species that will be able to return to Earth first."

Ryan asked just for curiosity's sake, but in the end, he was left speechless by what he heard. Did she read his mind, or was Ryan just that easy to understand? Deep down, it looked like he didn't change all that much. It looked like he was still the same guy from six months ago who just wanted to marry a beautiful woman and then have a nice family while he proves his skill at his work.

That somehow made Ryan annoyed, and at the same time, it made him feel relieved. Despite everything, Ryan's thirst for power was just a means to an end. Maybe Ryan still wanted that, but he wouldn't let someone give that to him... he didn't want to receive a new life on a silver plate.

"That is an interesting offer, but I will politely refuse," Ryan said and then pointed his crossbow at Titania. "I might fail in the end, but at the very least I won't give up until the very moment. I will prevent Earth from falling on the hands of you monsters, or die trying."

"Well... it is a pity, but it doesn't matter," Titania said after a long sigh. "Even without your mind, you will be a fine addiction to our army."

Before Ryan could pull the trigger, he heard some nuzzling coming from behind. In the end, he summoned his magic bows and aimed them at Titania, and pointed his Power Shot in the opposite direction only to see thousands of small creatures that seemed like very small versions of her. While those fairies were also cute, that was the last thing that appeared in Ryan's mind. Their eyes were red and vicious, and that was more than enough to make Ryan want to some distance from them.

Chapter 420

Fairy – Lv 400

Health: 4000/4000

Mana: 15000/15000

Stamina: 3000/3000

Strength: 750 (+ 250)

Dexterity: 1200 (+ 350)

Speed: 1100 (+ 250)

Intelligence: 1500 (+ 250)

Endurance: 800 (+ 150)

Control: 1100 (+ 250)

Mentality: 1000 (+ 150)

Luck: 750 (+ 50)

Recovery: 1500 (+ 350)

Willpower: 1000 (+ 150)

Coins: —

Status: —

Skill List

Offensive Physical Skills: Bite Lv 320, Scratch Lv 320

Passive Physical Skills: Improved Strength Lv 250, Improved Speed Lv 250,

Spells: Sleep Lv 400, Confusion Lv 400, Mind Control Lv 400

Support Skills: Fire Resistance Lv 100, Shock Resistance Lv 100, Wind Resistance Lv 200

Ryan never tested that before, but before firing this bolt toward the mass of monsters, he enchanted it with Lesser Fire Enchantment and Elemental Nature. In the end, his bolt minced into bits hundreds of fairies and also caused an explosion that killed many others. When that happened, the shockwave almost knocked Ryan down, but he resisted and bombarded Titania with his magic bows. However, when he turned around, he saw her enveloped by a wind barrier. His attacks were being completely nullified.

Although Ryan's attacks decimated the fairies, Titania's smile didn't disappear from her face. He confirmed why when he heard the buzzing sound again.

"··· Annoying insects..." Ryan said after clicking his tongue.

Ryan summoned his three Flame swords and then connected them before making them spin at super speeds in the entrance of the last part of the dungeon. The monsters that tried to pass by them were slashed apart in several pieces by the magic weapons. However, they were also losing a lot of durability. While they weren't sturdy monsters, the fairies still were monsters of a tier-three dungeon.

"You will join my army, but not before paying for your crimes," Titania said.

The smile had vanished from her face since her garden was one dirty with pieces of flesh and a lot of blood. Before she could do anything, Ryan fired his bolts at unbelievable speed towards Titania, but she blocked them by making lightning bolts fly from her hands and destroy the projectiles.

It looked like the Thunder Lord crossbow won't be that useful against her, so Ryan transformed his magic bows in the heavy crossbows. While they still were made of mana, the new projectiles still would have the earth element's properties, thus making them last longer.

The lightning bolts were so noisy that Ryan was having a hard time focusing hearing on the sides to avoid some unpleasant surprises. Titania finally began to fly around the room and tried to hit Ryan with one of her lightning bolts, but she only aimed at his leg, and Ryan dodged it by using Flash.

"She doesn't want to kill me... I guess she can't control something dead," Ryan concluded.

That would be useful, but only for a while. Someone as old as Titania wouldn't take too many risks if she senses that her life is in danger... With that in mind, Ryan had to try to finish the fight as soon as possible.

While Ryan wanted that, all his bolts were being repelled by Titania's lightning magic. That was insane since he was firing dozens of them every second. Ryan changed his strategy and decided to attack only with his magic bows, but then he equipped his newest weapon and fired Cursed Ray. Titania tried to block the attack as well, but she failed since the day didn't have a physical form. She slightly frowned when she got hit by it, and her status decreased for a few seconds. In the end, that didn't trouble in the slightest. She just increased her flying speed. Ryan tried to use Perfect Aim, but the skill didn't activate.

"Great... it doesn't work with all types of attacks..." Ryan clicked his tongue.

Ryan's usual fighting style wasn't working, so he decided to improvise. While still firing his magic bolts, Ryan equipped his Chaos Axe and then used Fire Cannon. While the skill wasn't powerful or fast enough to burn Titania, it had a large area of effect and made the monster lose sight of Ryan for a few moments. Titania noticed that something was off, but she didn't find Ryan even when she increased her speed.

Suddenly, the flames disappeared and, on the place Ryan was supposed to be, there was nothing. Titania tried to increase her speed once more while she turned around, but in the end, that was within Ryan's predictions. Titania was forced to block the attack with her hands, and since Ryan used Concentrated Strike, a lot of blood was coming from her hands. At the same time, she was unable to block Ryan's magic bolts. Ryan tried to blind her, but a wind Barrier protected her face. As if that wasn't enough, Titania still used lightning to cover her hands. The electricity passed through the ax and hit Ryan, but he escaped by using Flash. However, his weapon was now in Titania's hand. Fortunately, her powers weren't enough to break the weapon in a few seconds.

"I guess it is time to take some risks," Ryan furrowed his eyebrows.

Pointing his left hand toward Titania, Ryan activated Silence. In the end, the skill worked, but only for a single instant. The wind barrier reappeared nearly instantly but not fast enough to prevent Ryan from firing several poisoned bolts on Titania's face.

The bolts only scratched her face, but still activated the poisonous effects. Titania suddenly stopped flying and touched her face only to find some small marks of blood. Recovery healed her in a few seconds, but it looked like Ryan managed to damage more than her face... he damaged her pride and her appearance, the things that she valued the most.

"... Change of plans," Titania said, and her face suddenly transformed into a demon-like insect face.
"You won't become a soldier in our army, you will become a doll in which I will torment every day to get rid of my boredom. Be thankful that I won't let you die. You will continue to exist until your very existence becomes less valuable than of the insects."