

Domain 51

Chapter 51

In the end, the sound of the wheelchair attracted many monsters, even pterodactyls. As expected, Zoe trembled more and more when a new monster appeared, but at the very least, she obtained enough coins to buy her own crossbow. Not only that, she learned Eagle Eyes, Concentration, and Archery. So, with a few days of training and experience, she would be able to protect herself from the monsters of that area... as long as she has mana.

Regardless, Ryan returned to the dungeon at noon. He was exhausted because teaching was much more tiresome than fighting. Not only that, he pulled an all-nighter. So, he couldn't wait to find a good tree and sleep with his back against it.

"Mmm?" John frowned when he saw Ryan pushing a girl in a wheelchair amidst the tall grass. "It looks like you went for the residential area nearby. By the way, who is this little girl?"

"Her name is Zoe..." Ryan replied. "The new member of your team, for the time being, she will need to train alone for a few days. After that, she will be skilled enough not to hit your back with bolts."

"Are you serious, Ryan?" Daniel asked and then suddenly left one of the sleeping tents. "Do you want to make a kid fight?"

"I don't want to," Ryan replied. "But I can't look after her either. Can you swear to protect her from all monsters?"

"How can I swear something like that?" Daniel showed a pained expression.

"You can't, and you shouldn't," Ryan said, a bit annoyed. "Her parents were working at Shreveport when the dragons appeared. Since then, they didn't return. We can't rely on the government either. In this kind of situation, she has only two options, put her life on the hand of strangers for an undetermined amount of time, or do that just while she obtains the power to protect herself."

Mia also suddenly left one of the sleeping tents, and as usual, she avoided Ryan's gaze, but she approached Zoe and patted her head.

"It is okay," Mia said and then smiled. "We can help each other, don't be afraid."

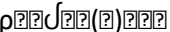
Zoe also avoided her gaze, but at the very least, she nodded. Since Zoe didn't interact much with other people in the last three years, she was a bit afraid of strangers, but not as much as she was afraid of monsters. That being said... killing a few of those monsters boosted her confidence slightly, so Ryan was certain that soon she would open up to that group. Besides, Mia was a kindergarten teacher. If anything, she knew how to look after kids.

"She already has enough coins to buy a crossbow," Ryan said and then turned around. "Time is of the essence, so the more she practices, the sooner she will help you with the goblins. You guys look like shit, so I bet you need all the help you can get."

John sighed, and Daniel just shrugged. They really seemed exhausted, but hearing that didn't help them. Fortunately, Adrian wasn't nearby, or that comment could have started a fight.

Regardless, Ryan sat on a nearby tree and then began to relax. Since he was well-hidden thanks to the branches and leaves, he was confident that he wouldn't draw the attention of any flying monsters. Zoe would since she would have to practice in an open space, but John, Daniel, and Mia were there to give her support if necessary.

"Ex-excuse me..." Zoe said, having difficulties looking at so many unknown adults in the eye. "All of you know Ryan? Are you, his friends?"

"I guess... in a sense..." Daniel forced a smile. 

"Why would he say so many mean things to his friends?" Zoe asked.

"Well... it is complicated," Daniel scratched the back of his head.

Zoe looked at Mia, hoping to hear a proper answer, but that only made her look extremely sad. In the end, Zoe decided not to ask about that again. She was smart enough to understand that things were complicated in that group. In the end, she spent the afternoon learning more things from Mia since she was also an archer. Even though she learned everything from Ryan...

Regardless, since Ryan didn't obtain many status points or learned a single skill that day, he decided to wake up a bit earlier instead of sleeping until sunset. He probably wouldn't use those, but he crafted a few arrows in order to learn and level up a new skill.

Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Craft.

Effect: Increased production speed and the quality of things made by you by one percent per level.

You obtained 01 status point.

Congratulations! The skill Craft has leveled up.

Craft Lv 1 → Lv 2

Effect: Increased production speed and the quality of things made by you by one percent per level.

You obtained 01 status point.

“I don't have anything that can help me learn Blacksmith, so I guess I will do that later,” Ryan said. “In any case, I thought Blacksmith would be a class instead of a skill... well, maybe there is a skill and a class with both names.”

Ryan didn't rest all that much, but at least that extra time gave him the chance to analyze that his plan had a few problems. First of all, maybe he could kill the hobgoblin by using gasoline. However, that would, without a doubt, damage the monsters' equipment. He probably didn't have enough strength to use the sword, but he still could use the shield and the chainmail. Maybe the shield would escape unscathed, but the chainmail, the equipment he would need most, would definitely get destroyed.

“What a waste... well, it is like I have any other option,” Ryan sighed.

Ryan didn't have enough power to make Flame Arrows rain over the hobgoblin, and that was why he had to rely on tools like gasoline. Maybe he could solve things with more ease next time, but only if he had other spells like Frozen Arrow or Electric Arrow.

Chapter 52

“Just to be safe, I should only challenge the boss before sunrise,” Ryan said after buying the iron crossbow. “There is a chance that the boss will last for quite a while, and I will need to fight more than a few minutes and to do that, I will need mana potions.”

Ryan's recovery reached a point where he could recover mana fast enough to create a wooden bolt every forty seconds. However, to create iron bolts, he would need one hundred seconds. In the end, only mana potions could help him solve that problem.

Mana potions were relatively small, so Ryan decided to spend all the coins he obtains that night buying them. In the end, using mana potions would let him level up his skills faster, so it was a good investment.

Congratulations! The class: Hunter, has leveled up.

Hunter Lv 4 → Lv 5

Dexterity + 2, Stamina + 2, Health + 1, Mana + 1, Speed + 1, Control +1.

Congratulations! The skill Archery has leveled up.

Archery Lv 6 → Lv 7

Effect: Increases damage when using bows by one percent per level.

You obtained 01 status point.

Congratulations! The skill Concentration has leveled up.

Concentration Lv 6 → Lv 7

Effect: Increases passively dexterity by one point per level.

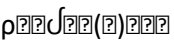
You obtained 01 status point.

Congratulations! The skill Eagle Eyes has leveled up.

Effect: Increases the range of long-range weapons by one percent per level.

Eagle Eyes Lv 6 → Lv 7

You obtained 01 status point.

Congratulations! The skill Power Shot has leveled up. 

Power Shot Lv 6 → Lv 7

Effect: Increases the dexterity temporarily by seven points per second.

Cost: 4 Stamina per second

You obtained 01 status point.

“I guess this is it...” Ryan said after allocating the points, he just obtained and buying the potions. “Here goes nothing...”

Although the mana potions were small, the bottles were quite resilient. So, Ryan felt safe in carrying them in his pocket. He would have to carry the plastic bottles full of gasoline, and given how messy the battle could become, it would be wiser to leave his backpack and his other weapons behind.

In the end, Ryan spent five minutes sitting cross-legged a few meters away from the last section of the dungeon. He needed to concentrate in order to prevent all possible mistakes his nervousness could make, so now was the time to steel his nerves.

Things would get complicated if goblins suddenly spawn in the middle of the battle, so Ryan got up and headed toward the boss. Surprisingly enough, even before he could step into that section, the hobgoblin got up and glared at Ryan. The monster could tell that Ryan had decided to challenge him, but for some reason, it didn't chase Ryan.

“I guess this works well for me...” Ryan said and then threw all the plastic bottles toward the hobgoblin.

Ryan imagined that the boss would use the weapon's side to send back the plastic bottles, but the stupid monster split them in half and ended up drenched in gasoline. Ryan sighed while looking at it... Still, he shot a Flame arrow without a hint of hesitation.

The weird things didn't end there. The very moment the hobgoblin began to burn, an unknown force made Ryan enter the last section of the dungeon, and when that happened, even though the monster was like a giant fireball, he ran toward Ryan.

“Crap!” Ryan bit his lips.

In the blink of an eye, Ryan aimed his crossbow at the hobgoblins' head. However, even before he could pull the trigger, the boss raised his shield to protect his head. Ryan didn't know if he read his line of sight or if hitting the head was the most obvious choice. Either way, it didn't change the fact that Ryan couldn't hit the head, so he changed his target. After aiming the monster's knee, Ryan pulled the trigger. But even the iron bolt got repelled by the iron pad he had there.

Ryan didn't have time to get annoyed at the monster's protective gear. The monster was already twenty meters away from him when the second iron bolt appeared. It was hard to believe, given that the creature was carrying three very heavy-looking items, but he could move as fast as Ryan.

The second bolt hit the hobgoblin's right feet, and this time, he hit the monster's flesh, but the bolt only caused a small wound. It seemed like his skin wasn't red for no reason. It was red because the monster had a skill that increased its endurance a lot.

"For real?" Ryan bit his lips in annoyance.

Even before he could shot the third bolt could appear; Ryan changed his strategy. The monster was already swinging his sword and about to split him in half, but Ryan activated Dash, and that small boost in speed granted him the chance to dodge the attack by a hair's breadth. Ryan saw the blade of the sword pass a few centimeters away from his nose, but the heat of the flames forced him to endure an uncomfortable situation.

The hobgoblin's sword hit the ground, and Ryan used that brief moment to increase the distance between him and the creature. However, at the same time, he grabbed a mana potion and then begun to drink. It tasted like lemonade, but Ryan couldn't care less about the taste. Slowly but surely, his mana begun to recover. Ryan threw away the bottle and then aimed at the monster's face once more.

Ryan had to spend almost half of his mana, but in the blink of an eye, two arrows flew toward the monster's face that was still recovering from the previous attack. The creature raised its shield to block the bolts, but he blocked only one. The other hit its cheek... but stopped before it could even damage its tongue or even the monster's teeth.

"Aww... come on..." Ryan said, annoyed.

There was no doubt in Ryan's mind that the hobgoblin was good at receiving physical damage. So, Ryan's only option was to use magic and strengthen even more the Fire Arrow that was heading toward the boss.

Congratulations! The skill Flame Arrow has leveled up.

Flame Arrow Lv 4 → Lv 5

Effect: Summon and fire a Flame Arrow without having to use a bow. The damage caused will be (dexterity plus your intelligence) x 25%.

Cost: 05 mana

You obtained 01 status point.

It didn't take long for Ryan to understand how convenient magic was, he didn't know if he could do that with all spells, but he could fire five Flame Arrows per second... as long as he had mana.

Ryan's mana bar became empty in just a single second, but he managed to hit the monster's face with two of his five Flame Arrows because he aimed at other parts of his body and the monster tried to block them all. The hobgoblin that was already engulfed in flames finally screamed in agony when the flames on its head increased in temperature. Despite that, Ryan could see while he was drinking another potion that the creature's eyes were still alive and full of hatred. He couldn't understand how the eyes of the monster couldn't melt in that situation, but at the very least, he could see the hair of the creature burning and fall on the ground.

Suddenly, the hobgoblin had a crazy idea. He rubbed his sword against his body and drenched the blade with gasoline and fire. It was clear what he wanted to do... the hobgoblin wanted barbecue, and Ryan would be the main dish.

Ryan tried to get away from the monster once more while waiting for his mana bar to get full, but the creature was faster since Ryan had to run while looking behind. The very moment he saw the blade being swung at him, Ryan threw himself on the side, but he still felt the flames on the sword burning his clothes.

Although it was annoying, the potions could only restore five mana points per second, so Ryan had to wait a few seconds before he could fire six Flame Arrows again. However, that was also convenient because it means that Ryan wouldn't waste the potions' efficacy.

Regardless, Ryan would soon begin to burn as well if he let the hobgoblin do what he wants. Still, he couldn't outspeed the beast, and he couldn't kill it as fast as he wanted. So, Ryan decided to make another bet.

"Here goes nothing... again," Ryan bit his lips.

Ryan pointed his crossbow at the monster's head again. As expected, the monster used its shield to protect its head. However, Ryan didn't shoot any bolt. Instead of that, he fired six Flame Arrows in fast succession and hit the monster's left chest. That much firepower made that part of the chainmail melt almost instantaneously. Thanks to it, the beast grunted in pain.

"All right... this can stop the beast," Ryan nodded to himself. "The bastard is tough, but he isn't invulnerable to fire... I can do this!"

Ryan could see his path to victory. Even if the monster were magically resilient or something, the creature would eventually suffocate to death due to the flames. He just needed to survive for a few minutes until that happens. However, even that was a bit of a risk, so Ryan decided to keep attacking the monster's left chest and hope that he would hit the heart before the creature suffocates.

However, the very moment Ryan tried to fire the next volley of Flame Arrows, something unexpected happened. When the monster saw Ryan pointing even his crossbow at it, the hobgoblin raised his shield to protect his head and moved his sword to its chest height. $\rho_{\text{??}} \int_{\text{??}} (\text{?})_{\text{??}} \text{??}$

"Tsk... It looks like I will have to give up on the sword," Ryan clicked his tongue. "Oh well... my next class is more important than that."

It was a pity, but it couldn't be helped. Ryan didn't have to aim with that much precision, he just had to keep shooting at the sword, and since the boss couldn't run at top-speed in that stance, Ryan could run around without letting the beast or the flames get too close to him.

Congratulations! The class: Hunter, has leveled up.

Hunter Lv 5 → Lv 6

Dexterity + 2, Stamina + 2, Health + 1, Mana + 1, Speed + 1, Control +1.

Congratulations! The skill Flame Arrow has leveled up.

Flame Arrow Lv 5 → Lv 6

Effect: Summon and fire a Flame Arrow without having to use a bow. The damage caused will be (dexterity plus your intelligence) x 30%.

Cost: 06 mana

You obtained 01 status point.

As expected, fighting against powerful enemies was the key to level up skills faster. Still, Ryan didn't have time to get excited or feel satisfied by the level-ups. Not even when he could see the sword of the hobgoblin slowly but surely melting. Why? Because he could see the hatred in the creature's eyes growing stronger... Ryan's father often said to him that there was nothing more dangerous than a wounded beast, so he couldn't lower his guard now.

In the end, the goblin lasted for quite a while. However, after five minutes of burning, his flesh begun to melt and fall on the ground. The smell made Ryan feel dizzy, but he withstood that because it wasn't time to pass out.

Instead of its legs, the first part of the body that gave up was the monster's left arm. It was quite a grotesque sight to see a shoulder melting like that, but if anything. Ryan only felt relieved that the battle was approaching the end. However, Ryan focused his senses again when the hobgoblin changed its posture. The creature was fifteen meters away from Ryan, but suddenly he assumed a completely offensive stance. Ryan couldn't understand what the beast was planning, but he knew that he had to move even far away from the creature. Trying to finish off the monster before it attacks was impossible.

Then suddenly, with a lightning speed in which Ryan couldn't react, the goblin threw his sword toward him. The next moment, Ryan felt a shocking pain pass through his arm that made him lose control over it.

Chapter 54

"AAAAAAAAAAAAARRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRGGGGGGGGGGHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH!" Ryan shouted in agony when he saw a half of his right arm falling on the ground.

Blood didn't even gush from the wound or from his cut off arm. Somehow the sword on fire cauterized the wound, and Ryan felt shivers due to it. The connection between both parts of his arm had been perfectly severed, and he automatically concluded that recovery wouldn't help him with that. It was a bit too soon for that, but Ryan immediately assumed the worst.

"Ryan!" Daniel shouted.

The surprise made Ryan forget about the pain a little. He looked to the tunnel that leads to the rest of the dungeon and saw Daniel, Mia, and John hitting what seemed to be an invisible wall. It looked like they had seen the boss at some point during the day and concluded that Ryan would challenge the creature that night since he didn't hide the plastic bottles full of gasoline.

They had followed Ryan to help in case something unexpected happens. Still, they didn't expect that the dungeon would create an invisible barrier that would prevent those who challenged the boss from escaping... the final battle in all dungeons was a battle to the death, and the barrier would disappear once one side wins.

Ryan decided to ignore those three and focus on the enemy in front of him, but the little bastard had thrown away its weapon, knowing it would die anyway. Before the monster could fall on the ground and die, the beast smirked while looking at Ryan.

"Son of a bitch..." Ryan clicked his tongue.

You obtained two hundred coins.

Congratulations! The skill Fire Resistance has leveled up.

Heat Resistance Lv 1 → Lv 3

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

You obtained 02 status points.

Congratulations! The skill Heat Resistance has leveled up.

Heat Resistance Lv 2 → Lv 3

Effect: Decreases the damage caused by all fire-type attacks by one point per level even when they don't damage you directly.

You obtained 01 status point.

Congratulations! The skill Rage has leveled up.

Rage Lv 4 → Lv 5

Effect: Sacrifices temporarily four percent of your mana, intelligence, control, mentality, and willpower to increase temporarily your health, stamina, strength, endurance, and speed by the same amount.

You obtained 01 status point.

Ryan was still having a hard time enduring the pain in his right arm, but for the good or for the worst, the cauterization decreased the pain, or at least he thought. It was hard to tell if he actually had the guts to endure that kind of pain. To make Ryan even madder, a group of six goblins suddenly appeared in

front of the purple crystal and immediately ran toward him. However, he exploded their heads by using Flame Arrows.

“I need to hurry...” Ryan muttered. “Maybe some health potions will help me to fix my arm, but first...”

Ryan checked the hobgoblin’s sword; the weapon broke the very moment it hit the wall behind Ryan, so it was just a piece of junk. It was heavy and didn’t grant him any status points. The chain mail had melted completely, but it still could be used even though the shield was quite damaged.

Buckler

Effect: Increases the user’s health by ten points and endurance by five points. $\rho_{??} \int_{??} (??)_{??}$

Durability: 05/50

“Bastard... at least drop something decent,” Ryan clicked his tongue.

Ryan couldn’t help but feel that he lost more than he had gained by fighting the hobgoblin. Maybe all his problems would be solved by obtaining the next class, but hoping for that was a bit too much. It would be insane to get something so convenient given the things that he experienced over the last week.

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: Viking, Merchant, and Elementalist.

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

Ryan had considered that his options would be like advancements of his hunter class, but it looked like that wasn’t the case. Although he was interested in Viking and Merchant, only Elementalist seemed to be the option that would help him reach the goal of becoming a magic archer. So, he ended up choosing that.

Congratulations! You have become a Level one Elementalist!

You obtained the following skills: Lesser Fire Enchantment, Lesser Wind Enchantment, and Lesser Water Enchantment.

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

Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Lesser Fire Enchantment.

Effect: Increases the power of your attacks by adding the properties of fire. The extra damage caused will be equal to your intelligence + 10%.

Cost: 05 mana per attack.

You obtained 01 status point.

Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Lesser Wind Enchantment.

Effect: Increases the power of your attacks by adding the properties of wind. The extra damage caused will be equal to your intelligence + 10%.

Cost: 05 mana per attack.

You obtained 01 status point.

Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Lesser Water Enchantment.

Effect: Increases the power of your attacks by adding the properties of water. The extra damage caused will be equal to your intelligence + 10%.

Cost: 05 mana per attack.

You obtained 01 status point.

It looked like Ryan obtained what he was looking for. Still, since it looked like it would take a while before he can freeze or shock his enemies, he only felt like he had paid a high price for it. In any case, his job there was over. So, Ryan picked his crossbow and arm and then prepared to head to the entrance of the dungeon, but his surprises didn't end there.

Congratulations! You have cleared your second dungeon. As such, you have earned the right to join the ranks of the strongest warriors on your planet! Keep clearing dungeons and defeating monsters to raise your rank, and you might receive some nice rewards!

Current Rank: 1554th

You obtained Night Demon's Blood.

Chapter 55

"What the heck..." Ryan frowned once a glass filled blood appeared before him and then fell on his hands. "Night Demon's Blood? I guess that is a reward for becoming part of the rank... Still... only a few days passed, the monsters appeared, and more than one thousand survivors cleared two dungeons? I guess I'm not the only one who is adapting way too fast."

Regardless, Ryan began to wonder how he should use that item, but the answer was clear. He had to drink it... as if drinking monster's blood wasn't enough, he would have to drink one that belonged to demons. Although Ryan had imagined that demons would also be attacking Earth, he didn't expect that he would have to face them any time soon, much less drink their blood to become one-fourth demon.

"Will I grow horns or fallen angel's wings by drinking this?" Ryan rubbed his chin.

Just like classes, Ryan was pretty sure that he would obtain some power by drinking the blood, but he began to wonder if he really wanted power all that much to become a part demon. That kind of possibility also made him begun to wonder if people could become part of other races by drinking the blood of other monsters or if that was only possible if the blood was obtained by special means.

Ryan thought he would change his body to get stronger without a hint of hesitation, but now that he had the chance, he was wondering if he really wanted to change the body his parents gave him. However, such thoughts disappeared because his body wasn't the only thing he received from them. Although he wasn't exactly behaving himself in a manner that would make his parents proud, Ryan was doing his best, and whenever possible, he was helping those that needed a hand. Besides, even though Ryan knew that the blood wouldn't make him reattach his arm, he needed more power now that he lost his right hand.

"... This is like a vicious cycle..." Ryan sighed. "To survive, I need power. To help others, I need power. To solve most problems... I need power, as well."

Ryan opened the bottle and begun to drink the blood as fast as he could while praying that he wouldn't grow wings or horns. In the blink of an eye, he began to feel the power flowing through his body. However, he didn't see or feel any real changes.

Congratulations! Now you are one fourth Night Demon!

As a night demon, you can draw power from the moon, and all of your statuses will increase by twenty percent when fighting at night.

Enemies that possess the light attribute might get enraged when they find you.

Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Appraisal.

Effect: This shows you the basic information of all living beings. The amount of information shown will increase the more the skill levels up.

Cost: 10 mana

You obtained 01 status point.

Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Nocturnal Eyes.

Effect: Increases your eyesight in dark places and at night by one percent per level. $\rho_{\text{??}} \int_{\text{??}} (\text{?})_{\text{??}} \text{??}$

You obtained 01 status point.

“Only two skills, huh...” Ryan muttered. “Well, both of them have a lot of potential, so I’m satisfied. Besides, I didn’t grow horns and wings.”

The pain in his wounds decreased, but Ryan’s arm was still the same as always. Regardless, he had finished his business, so he headed toward the entrance of the dungeon. However, he was blocked by Daniel, John, and Mia.

“Are you all right?” John asked. “What did you just drink?”

The barrier only disappeared when Ryan decided to leave that area. Maybe it was just a security system created by the dungeon to give those who challenge the bosses the chance to get the rewards and recover if someone might try to backstab them. Ryan looked at the purple crystal before answering... once again, he totally forgot about checking the crystal. Still, since it was an object capable of summoning monsters, perhaps it was better to stay away from it for the time being. It was better not to mess with the things he couldn’t understand.

“It was the reward for becoming part of the rank,” Ryan replied. “Now, I’m part demon... apparently. I can’t feel that, though... Anyway, my job here is over. Good luck.”

“Are you insane?” Daniel shouted. “Did you drink something like that without thinking? Didn’t you think that could have been poisonous?”

“Shut up...” Ryan glared at Daniel. “If I live or die it is none of your business.”

Ryan tried to pass by them and since it was clear he wasn't in a good mood, Daniel and John opened the path, but Mia didn't move, and she faced Ryan while looking at him in the eye for the first time since the monsters appeared.

"Ryan, about what happened..." Mia said.

"Spare me of your excuses," Ryan said. "I don't know why you and Daniel drunk so much that day, and I don't give a damn. At least have the dignity to accept the result of your actions, being them conscious or not."

"Yes..." Mia lowered her head and then forced herself not to let any tears flow while Ryan was nearby.

When Ryan reached the entrance of the dungeon, he let out a long sigh. Even he was surprised that he managed to say and think rationally when Mia brought that topic back. Still, even though he didn't think much about it, it was pretty obvious that something happened to make Mia drink so much. That day he found them at the motel. He could smell even from meters away the scent of alcohol... He also could imagine what happened to her, but soon Ryan decided to shake those thoughts out of his head. Whatever happened, it wasn't his problem, not anymore.

Little by little, Ryan's head began to cool down, and the pain in his arm was increasing, he wasn't bleeding that much, but the wound wasn't completely closed. As if that wasn't enough, even though Ryan used four health potions, the effects healed the wound in his arm, but not on the part that got cut off. He wouldn't be able to recover his right arm...

Chapter 56

The sun was rising when Ryan left the dungeon. Usually, he would tell anyone who was nearby about how the battle against the boss occurred, but since John, Daniel and Mia watched everything, he didn't have to do that. He just had to bury his arm since the chances of him finding some way to heal it before it rots were close to none.

"It looks like there are all kinds of classes..." Ryan muttered. "So, it wouldn't be weird if I find someone who decided to become a healer, priest, or novice, and they can heal my arm..."

Considering that his long-ranged weapons skills could improve just by using status points, Ryan could make things work with his left arm. However, he wouldn't be fast like before, and his stance would be weird as well. In the best-case scenario, his range decreased by half just by losing his main arm. He would be able to compensate with magic for a while since he had some potions, but it would be better to look for a healer in the end.

"More than fifteen hundred people cleared two dungeons already, so the chances of me finding a healer aren't small," Ryan muttered.

"So, you are going to look for someone to heal your arm?" John asked.

Ryan turned around and sighed. It was only obvious that those three would be a few meters behind Ryan since they didn't have anything to do inside the dungeon for the time being... Regardless, he was too tired to get angry at them.

Since Ryan wasn't depressed or complaining because of his arm, Daniel and John didn't have to worry about him. As for Mia, she wasn't avoiding his eyes anymore. He also was fully aware that she had better things to do than to feel guilty while Ryan is nearby.

"... Yes," Ryan replied.

"May I ask where you are heading now?" John asked.

"What are you going to do with that information?" Ryan frowned.

"Nothing, I'm just curious," John shrugged. "If anything, it would be good to have a direction to follow after clearing this dungeon. I hoped that some survivors would appear eventually, but since we are a few hundred meters from the high road, it looks like that won't happen. Our idea is to create a bigger survivor's camp in a place that other survivors can find. It looks like the better places to create those camps are near the dungeons. Even though it is dangerous, we need to have quick access to the dungeon shop."

Ryan really didn't want to be followed by Mia and Daniel, but since John wouldn't leave that place unless he is sure about the group's strength, it would take a while for that to happen. Besides, Ryan would head to a dangerous place.

"If you really want to know, then I will tell you," Ryan smirked. "I'm going to Shreveport; it looks like there is a velociraptors' dungeon in the north of the city. So, it is the best place to look for a healer."

Even John had a hard time keeping a straight face after hearing that. Ryan had lost an arm, he was exhausted after a difficult battle, and more importantly, the dragons might still be around. If they weren't near a dungeon that could grant them the chance to obtain power, John's group would have moved even much farther away from civilization.

"Don't even try to stop me," Ryan said. "I don't know where I can find another dungeon, so I don't have any other choice. Besides, I need to see with my own eyes the destruction caused by the dragons."

"Why?" Daniel asked.

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

Ryan turned around again and then began to walk where he hid the motorcycle. Walking while carrying his cut off, was weird and uncomfortable in a way that Ryan couldn't even describe. Still, he was more worried about how he would drive with a single arm, and he was also a bit worried about Zoe because he could relate more or less to her situation. He just lost his parents a few days ago, after all. However, he knew that she was in good hands.

"Ryan! Take care!" Mia shouted before Ryan could disappear between a few trees.

In the end, Ryan decided to act as if he hadn't heard anything because dealing with people with the world in that situation was too tiresome. Besides, things only get more complicated when people related to them are involved.

Regardless, Ryan buried his arm at the same place he had hidden the motorcycle. Although he was near to the high road, the area was eerily silent to the point where one couldn't believe that weird monsters were destroying the world. In any case, before turning on the motorcycle, he checked his status screen.

Ryan had obtained a few points during the battle, so he allocated as usual in mana, recovery, speed, and dexterity. Since those were the status he needed the most during the battle.

Class: Hunter Lv 06 / Elementalist Lv 01/— ρ???(?)???

Race: Night Demon /—/—

Rank: 1554th

Health: 27/27 (0, 0555)

Mana: 34/34 (0, 0555)

Stamina: 34/34 (0, 0555)

Strength: 07 (+3)

Dexterity: 44 (+19) (+12)

Speed: 27 (+6)

Intelligence: 06 (+5)

Endurance: 07 (+8)

Control: 06 (+8)

Mentality: 07

Luck: 13

Recovery: 30 (+3)

Willpower: 09

Coins: 24

Status: 00

Skill List

Offensive Physical Skills: Power Shot Lv 07, Throw Lv 01, Dash Lv 02, Rapid Shot Lv 01, Herculean Strength Lv 02,

Passive Physical Skills: Eagle Eyes Lv 07, Concentration Lv 07, Archery Lv 07, Accuracy Lv 06, Stealth Lv 03, Pain Resistance Lv 01, Perception Lv 02, Rage Lv 05, Precision Lv 03, Swordsmanship Lv 02, Alert Lv 02, Cook Lv 01, Stalk Lv 01, Art of Sniping Lv 01, Tracking Lv 01, Spearmanship Lv 02, Knife Mastery Lv 02, Martial Arts Lv 02, Craft Lv 02,

Spells: Analysis Lv 01, Lurk Lv 01, Mana Transfusion Lv 03, Meditation Lv 05, Flame Arrow Lv 06, Appraisal Lv 01, Lesser Fire Enchantment Lv 01, Lesser Water Enchantment Lv 01, Lesser Wind Enchantment Lv 01,

Support Skills: Earth Resistance Lv 01, Fear Resistance Lv 02, Fire Resistance Lv 03, Heat Resistance Lv 04, Sleep Resistance Lv 02, Nocturnal Eyes Lv 01

“Oh boy... I still can't believe that now I have demon's blood in my veins,” Ryan said after sighing.

Chapter 57

The road to Shreveport was even more deserted than Ryan had expected. Aside from a few crashed cars and some signs of blood, Ryan didn't identify any signs of humans. Even though he passed through a couple of communities along the way...

It didn't take long for Ryan to see Shreveport from a certain distance, and much to his surprise, he didn't see any dragons flying near it. Truth to be told, he had hoped to see a few ones, and perhaps the fear would make him change his mind. Despite that, the smoke was still rising in several parts of the city.

"It looks like the dragons finally left, but the city isn't free of monsters..." Ryan muttered. "That means there are still survivors there."

As expected, Ryan found a few giant bees along the way, but he quickly killed them before they could get too close by using Flame Arrows. He tried to drive the vehicle and then aim his iron crossbow by using his left hand alone, but he wasn't skilled enough to drive without using his hands.

"They make it look so easy in the movies..." Ryan sighed. "Well, it shouldn't be a problem as long as I have mana potions. Which reminds me... I can use Appraisal on the monsters."

It wasn't a good idea to spend mana by using Appraisal on monsters that he could easily kill, but considering that the information would increase by leveling up the skill, he had no other choice. However, the result had been unexpected in many ways.

Killer Bee

"Boy, oh boy.... It is worse than I imagined," Ryan frowned.

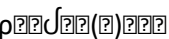
At level one, Appraisal could only show him the name of the monster and nothing more. Still, leveling up that skill would be easy since the monsters wouldn't be able to notice him using it if Ryan hides somewhere. Besides, he has Meditation, so he was confident that after one day or two, Appraisal would become useful.

However, such thoughts disappeared from Ryan's mind when he finally arrived at Shreveport. He finally understood why he didn't see many people coming from that place... it was because the whole city now

was surrounded by a river of magma. It was crazy, but without a doubt, that had been the work of the dragons.

“Shit... those freaking monsters have the power even to melt asphalt,” Ryan bit his lips.

Ryan didn't know how deep the river of magma was, nor did he want to know. All that he knew that anyone touching the magma would die screaming in agony and that the river was twenty meters large. It was big enough to destroy any vehicle that the citizens of the city might try to use in order to cross that obstacle. However, weirdly enough, Ryan couldn't see any signs of survivors in all directions. He couldn't see monsters either.

“Something is off...” Ryan rubbed his chin. 

The city was destroyed, and Ryan could barely see buildings that were had more than three floors still standing, but even so, he didn't see many signs of battles. Maybe he was counting too much on his eyesight, but he had hoped to see the corpses of the people who tried to escape the chaos the dragons created.

There were some burned down cars near the magma river, but the number was too low, considering the city's population. It wouldn't be hard to imagine that the shock of seeing dragons breathing fire made everyone unable to think, but... Ryan shook his head. What happened wouldn't help him in any way. Knowing how people reacted wouldn't change a thing either. So, Ryan decided to focus on the problem in front of him.

Since the dragons destroyed almost everything on sight, Ryan couldn't use many places to hide. So, choosing a roundabout way would be too dangerous. The best option was for him to jump over the river of magma.

“Usually, magma would cool down after a while, but I can't wait for that,” Ryan muttered. “Besides, there is a chance that the magma won't cool down at all since it was made by using mana.... Anyway, can I even jump over something this larger?”

Ryan's physical strength increased slightly, but he still couldn't imagine himself succeeding in such a feat. He was crazy enough to consider that idea but not stupid enough to think that he could easily do it. Cole's motorcycle was running out of fuel, so Ryan's options were really limited.

“Well, let’s hide it just in case...” Ryan said and then used some bushes to hide the motorcycle.

After doing that, Ryan began to test his body and see if he could actually jump over the river of magma. In the end, he somehow managed to jump over a distance of ten meters... he just needed to double that. If he could jump over ten meters with ten points in strength, Herculean Strength would increase that amount by two meters. He also could increase that amount without relying on status points, but Ryan would have to abandon some of his things.

After tossing away his dirty clothes, some iron bolts, his wooden crossbow, and his wooden bow, Ryan managed to increase the distance by fifteen meters. However, he couldn’t throw away anything else.

“I guess I need to level up some skill and put some points into strength...” Ryan sighed. “I guess this is a good opportunity to see the skills that I learned when I obtained the Elementalist class.”

He would have to use too much mana if he uses those spells alongside his iron crossbow, so Ryan decided to enchant the short spear he had before throwing it away. Much for his surprise, when he enchanted the weapon with fire, the spear easily burned the ground when it touched. The scent was quite strong even though there was no fire, and the tip only glowed, emitting a red tone.

“Interesting... I like this,” Ryan smirked while thinking about new ways of using those skills.”

Chapter 58

Congratulations! Your class Elementalist has leveled up.

Elementalist Lv 1 → Lv 2

Intelligence + 2, Mana + 2, Health + 1, stamina + 1, recovery + 1, control +1.

Congratulations! The skill Lesser Fire Enchantment has leveled up.

Stealth Lv 1 → Lv 2

Effect: Increases the power of your attacks by adding the properties of fire. The extra damage caused will be equal to your intelligence + 15%.

Cost: 05 mana per attack.

You obtained 01 status point.

Congratulations! The skill Lesser Wind Enchantment has leveled up.

Lesser Wind Enchantment Lv 1 → Lv 2

Effect: Increases the power of your attacks by adding the properties of wind. The extra damage caused will be equal to your intelligence + 15%.

Cost: 05 mana per attack.

You obtained 01 status point.

Congratulations! The skill Lesser Water Enchantment has leveled up.

Lesser Water Enchantment Lv 1 → Lv 2

Effect: Increases the power of your attacks by adding the properties of water. The extra damage caused will be equal to your intelligence + 15%.

Cost: 05 mana per attack.

You obtained 01 status point.

While Ryan was training those new spells, he learned their ins and outs. Basically, the spell could increase the power of a single attack, and even if Ryan doesn't attack anything, the spell will stay active for five seconds. Those skills were useful to the point where Ryan could use them on his fists without worrying about wounding himself. It was weird to touch something and then make it burn while his hands didn't feel any heat, but considering that was happening thanks to his mana, it wasn't that surprising. $\rho_{\text{??}} \cup_{\text{??}}(\text{?})_{\text{??}}$

"Let's see... the fire causes damage, the water slows down the enemies, and wind makes my attacks faster," Ryan nodded to himself in satisfaction. "Not bad, considering those spells increase the power of my attacks."

While Ryan was training, he discovered that he didn't have to throw away all his possessions. He just had to toss them to the other side of the river before he jumps. Still, he threw away his dirty clothes because he was expecting to find some new ones in the city.

Without the luggage and with the added strength, Ryan managed to jump over a distance of twenty-five meters, and so he proceeds to jump over the river of magma. Still, even though he knew he was physically strong for the jump, he couldn't help but sweat cold before doing it.

"Please don't trip, dear legs," Ryan muttered. "I'm counting on you... I didn't survive until now just to die after tripping."

After tossing his things to the other side of the river, Ryan readied himself to make the jump. As expected, the more he waited to calm down, the more nervous he got. So, he suddenly decided to run, and when he got close enough, he jumped. It only lasted for a moment, but Ryan sweated cold while his body was flying over the river of magma. The smell of burned asphalt, concrete, and whatever else had fallen there made Ryan feel dizzy, but fortunately, he landed on the other side without passing out. However, his ass was quite hot thanks to the heat the river was emitting.

"Phew... I guess I got nervous for no reason," Ryan sighed while he was collecting his things.

Much to his surprise, probably thanks to the adrenaline boost, Ryan managed to jump over thirty meters... it was quite weird. Still, considering the potential of mana, it didn't surprise Ryan that he obtained a superhuman body just after a few days of fighting. That being said, considering the number of times he almost died and got wounded, he felt like he deserved his current power.

“I guess my first step here shall be finding food and clothes,” Ryan said while he was looking around. “I have to make good use of these moments before some monsters appear.”

Finding a clothing store still standing would be heard, but Ryan was confident that he would find one even while he walks in a straight line toward the north of the city. However, those thoughts left his mind for a moment when he began to feel weird. It was the same feeling he had before he met Zoe. However, this time Ryan was sure that someone actually was watching him through their eyes, but he couldn't find a single house that hadn't been attacked by monsters.

“I guess some survivors decided to hide even in destroyed houses...”

Ryan could see signs of human flesh on the streets, he didn't feel it before due to the magma river, but the scent of rotten bodies and flesh was strong in Shreveport. As if monsters were troublesome enough, a city in that state would certainly make the survivors get sick in a few days. Getting sick in an apocalyptic situation was one of the worst things that could happen since finding medicine would be complicated. However, that situation made Ryan ponder about other things. Since he couldn't see monsters, why the people were hiding in destroyed houses?

Soon Ryan obtained the answer to that question. After walking for two hundred meters in a straight line, he found a group of ten or so blue monsters walking around the streets as if they were looking for something or patrolling. They were bipedal, but they had fish heads...

“I thought this city would be attacked by velociraptors... what is that?” Ryan frowned.

Sahuagin – Lv 01

When Ryan saw that name, he recalled that species of monster. He saw it in some games, but since they were somewhat similar to the goblins, the Sahuagins were most of the time ignored or even left behind. At the same time, Ryan used Appraisal. The monsters looked at him. Maybe it was thanks to the wildest instincts, but it was clear that using and leveling up that skill wouldn't be so easy.

The creatures dashed toward Ryan, but he didn't even have the need to worry. His crossbow was already ready to be used. However, as expected, he was having a hard time making the weapon steady.

“Shit...” Ryan bit his lips.

Chapter 59

It was a pain, but he would have to let the monsters get closer. Still, Ryan fired Flame Arrows toward the group while he was picking a mana potion. Aiming with his left arm was easy, but much to his surprise, three of his seven Flame Arrows got repelled by water spears that suddenly appeared in the monster’s hands.

You obtained four coins.

You obtained four coins.

You obtained four coins.

...

Ryan watched, shocked while he was drinking the mana potion, the water becoming solid like iron. In just two seconds, that happened... even though they were monsters, Ryan didn’t imagine that they could create their weapons like that.

“Weapon materialization... that is convenient,” Ryan muttered.

Still, since the Sahuagins were aquatic creatures, their running speed wasn’t that impressive. Besides, they were aware of Ryan’s attacks, so they weren’t charging like goblins. Thanks to it, Ryan had a lot of time to recover his mana.

“Let’s see if I can combine some attacks...” Ryan equipped his crossbow again and then aimed.

Suddenly, a high pitching sound exploded from Ryan’s crossbow. Despite that, he barely felt the kick of his attack. Two bolts suddenly left his crossbow and flew into a straight line toward the Sahuagins heads.

This time the two died instantaneously without having the chance to react, the Lesser Wind Enchantment enhanced the speed of the bolts, and Rapid Shot duplicated the power.

You obtained four coins.

You obtained four coins.

“Twenty mana points... this will be hard,” Ryan frowned.

Much to his surprise, the four remaining Sahuagins stopped twenty meters away from Ryan. Although he was thankful for the chance to recover more mana and attack again, he didn't lower his guard. It was clear that the Sahuagins were preparing something. Ryan equipped the buckler that was on his back on his left arm and unequipped his crossbow, his movements matched with monsters that they aimed their spears at him. A moment later, some water balls that appeared in front of them were shot toward Ryan.

Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Shield Mastery.

Effect: Decreases the power of all types of attacks by one point per level when blocking them.

You obtained 01 status point.

Ryan rolled to his left side while making sure to protect his head, but he still felt the shield getting hit two times, and all the air inside his lungs left when he got hit in the stomach by the third one. He couldn't tell what happened to the fourth Water Ball, but Ryan couldn't care less at that moment.

Somehow, Ryan had enough time to get up and see the Sahuagins preparing for the next attack. Ryan checked his health and saw that he lost twenty percent of it. Running away wasn't an option, and dodging wasn't something he was used to. So, Ryan used all his mana and fired seven Flame Arrows. His magic projectiles made the Water Balls evaporate, and the remaining three hit the heads of three of them. $\sqrt{2} \approx 1.414$

You obtained four coins.

You obtained four coins.

You obtained four coins.

The remaining Sahuagin tried to throw his spear toward Ryan, but he shot an iron bolt on the creature's head. Ryan sighed in relief, but he was forced to drink a mana potion since he was slightly lightheaded. That was the price of using all his mana, but it couldn't be helped given the situation.

You obtained four coins.

Congratulations! Your class Elementalist has leveled up.

Elementalist Lv 2 → Lv 3

Intelligence + 2, Mana + 2, Health + 1, stamina + 1, recovery + 1, control +1.

Ryan approached the monster's corpses only to see that they didn't drop anything. To make things worse, their weapons evaporated... It looked like raising his luck wouldn't make things all that convenient unless Ryan allocates all his status points into it.

"I guess this explains why people are hiding..." Ryan rubbed his chin while he looked around. "I probably didn't see them near the river of magma because they dislike high temperatures. Still... it is weird that they can move in high numbers when the velociraptors dungeon is supposed to be closer."

Maybe there was a dungeon even closer than Ryan had imagined. He then recalled the Cross Lake... Ryan was pretty sure Sahuagins only lived near the ocean. Then again, his knowledge was based on games, so it wasn't a good idea to use them as an absolute source of information.

In any case, it looked like with his current amount of mana. He wouldn't be able to fight without relying on mana potions. Although he had bought them to use, they wouldn't last forever, so Ryan had to think of a way to fight without spending too much mana. Since the Sahuagins could block his attacks, a half-assed measure wouldn't help.

“I can’t just create a stock of iron bolts, reloading the crossbow with a single arm in the middle of a battle. It is impossible,” Ryan muttered. “My spells won’t help, perhaps...”

Ryan turned around the very moment he heard a step coming from behind. Even though he wasn’t used to it yet, his left arm aimed his weapon at the head of the individual behind him. However, he relaxed a little when he saw a single unarmed and tired middle-aged man wearing what seemed to be a clerk’s clothes. His whole body was covered in dust and ashes... almost as if a building had fallen over him or if he had hidden underneath some rubble.

“Please don’t shoot. I just want to talk,” The middle-aged man raised his hands nervously to show that he didn’t have any weapons. “You are one of them, right?”

“One of who?” Ryan frowned, still pointing his crossbow at the man.

“Are you not one of the people who are sheltering survivors?” The middle-aged man asked, visibly surprised.

“... I just arrived in this city.” Ryan replied. “If there is a group helping survivors in this city, why didn’t you join them?”

“We only heard about them on a radio,” The middle-aged man said. “It looks like they are looking for survivors, but they are located in the northern part of the city. We heard that they would look for survivors in this area this morning, but until now, they didn’t appear.”

Chapter 60

Ryan frowned upon hearing that, it was almost noon, so if they didn’t appear until now, it means something happened and forced the group to give up on their plans. Something troublesome happened that didn’t let them inform what happened using the radios... At the north of Shreveport, one could find the bridge and Cross Lake. So, the chances of a dungeon existing there increased. After all, upon recognizing the dungeon’s existence, it would be wiser to put a force of soldiers there. That was what probably happened, but that didn’t explain how Ryan found a group of ten Sahuagins a few kilometers away from there.

“When was the last time they transmitted any message?” Ryan asked.

“At sunrise, their leader told us that they were finishing the preparations for the operation,” The middle-aged man replied. “... Are you going in that direction?”

“Yeah... that was my goal from the beginning,” Ryan said, a bit annoyed when he noticed the man gazing at his right arm. “If you want to, you can come with me, but you will have to make yourself useful.”

“H-how?” The middle-aged man asked, even though he already had an idea of what Ryan was planning.

“As you just saw, I can’t fight against so many of these enemies alone,” Ryan said and then passed the buckler to the middle-aged man. “Use this to protect yourself while you draw the attention of the monsters.”

“... Yes,” The man gulped while he was equipping the shield. “There is another thing I need to tell you...”

“Yeah, I know. They can come too,” Ryan said and then turned around in search of enemies.

Ryan felt that he was still being watched, even after the man suddenly appeared, so it was clear that he wasn’t alone. Surprisingly, a middle-aged woman and a boy appeared out of a pile of rubble. They had been used a brown curtain to hide themselves... it was like a ninja trick; Ryan didn’t notice at any moment their existence there.

The woman and the boy hid behind the middle-aged man. It looked like they saw what Ryan could do, and even though he was a human, they didn’t feel all that comfortable in getting close to a man that could fire magic fire arrows.

“I don’t think that it is necessary, but I will tell anyway,” Ryan said. “Don’t make too much noise. If you do, I won’t be able to hear the monster’s approach. By the way... didn’t you guys try to fight the monsters until now?”

“No...” The middle-aged man said while he was trying to get used to the weight of the buckler. “The dragons didn’t leave this city until yesterday afternoon, so we didn’t dare to do it. When they suddenly left, those other monsters appeared... some survivors tried to fight them, but... they didn’t succeed.”

“I see...” Ryan said.

“May I ask you something?” The middle-aged man looking at Ryan uneasily.

“Didn’t you already ask?” Ryan frowned. “Anyway, I guess this is the best time for us to exchange information.”

“You don’t look, but are you in the army?” The middle-aged man asked.

“No... I’m just a former PE teacher that has some experience hunting deer and rabbits,” Ryan said. “The name is Ryan, by the way.”

“A teacher? Well, you can call me Jacob. These are my wife and son, Bella and Edward,” Jacob frowned a little.

It would be a pain if Jacob keeps asking things, so Ryan gave him a brief summary of the things he learned. It was only obvious that he would want the power Ryan obtained to protect his family. Still, Jacob had a hard time believing that Ryan cleared two dungeons and killed hundreds of monsters alone... but considering the wound in his right arm seemed quite recent, he understood that he didn’t lie.

Ryan began to wonder if he shouldn’t take his time and see how his old house was but soon shook out those thoughts out of his head. The house was located on the eastern side of the city, so he would to waste a lot of time to go there. Maybe he could once he confirm some things about this new group of survivors and if there is a dungeon near the lake, but he discarded that idea for the time being. Besides, going back to his old house would only make him depressed... to survive, Ryan couldn’t second guess himself, and he had to keep his focus, and thinking about his parents’ death wouldn’t let him do that.

“... What should I do?” Bella asked. “I don’t think I can be of much use with a bow, but perhaps with the crossbow...”

“I don’t have any other weapons,” Ryan explained. “The cost to use the crossbow is high, so you probably won’t be able to help to shoot all that much. Just stay behind us and keep an eye on enemies coming from the back.”

Although his reasoning was sound, Ryan didn’t want to trust the people that watched him fight the Sahuagins. They only approached him because he survived, after all. So, it wasn’t a good idea to give a weapon to those people. Still, even if Jacob succeeds in drawing the monsters’ attention, Ryan wouldn’t be able to kill a group of ten without relying on mana potions. Unless...

“Maybe I can use throw alongside the iron bolts...” Ryan muttered.

Jacob and his family were ready to depart, but Ryan decided to test his theory. He wasn’t expecting too much since he wasn’t left-handed, but as long as he can hit the enemies’ heads and make them flinch, having a few extra iron bolts would be worth the hassle. Besides, they weighed over five hundred grams, so at the very least, they would stun the enemies, as long as Ryan hit their heads.

After a while, Ryan confirmed that his accuracy wasn’t that bad, even with his left hand. However, only one out of three times he could make the bolt’s tip hit the target.

“Oh, well... it is not like I have any other option,” Ryan sighed.