

Domain 71

Chapter 71

Sahuagin Duelist – Lv 10

Health: 600/600

After using Appraisal, Ryan understood why a single of those monsters managed to kill five of twenty survivors. He didn't know if those who died were Luke's friend or something, but the anger he felt after the battle probably made him attack the purple crystal, and that lead to their current situation. Regardless, even though the situation was dire, at the price of five lives, the people of that city discovered that they shouldn't attack the purple crystal.

"Can you see their status?" Lilian asked. "What do you think?"

Ryan frowned when he heard that question... then again, why would he stare so much at the enemies if he couldn't do it? The only possibility was that he could see their status, or he liked muscular men like Lilian.

"It will be difficult..." Ryan replied and then sighed. "I don't think I'm powerful enough to snipe them from so far away. If we get too close, there is always the chance that all of them might try to hunt us down."

"You can strengthen your attacks with mana and stamina, right?" Lilian asked again. "Can't you kill not even a single of them if you use all your mana and stamina?"

"How did you... forget about it," Ryan said after a long sigh. "Yeah, I can do something like that... but they have too much health. Given that a single one of them took five of your friends, it is evident that they have a lot of endurance... I have some ideas as to how to snipe them, but I will need to level up some skills first."

“We don’t know how much time we have... we don’t even know if we are in a race against time, after all,” Lilian crossed her arms and began to think. “In any case, we need to obtain more weapons and train all the survivors before trying to kill all the bosses. So, I guess we don’t have any other choice... it is grinding time.”

After dinner, Lilian, Luke, and her friends would teach all the other survivors the skills they learned and could be taught since every single stat point was valuable. Still, they would need weapons as well, but despite the fact that they killed hundreds of Sahuagins, Ryan, Lilian and Luke only obtained two swords, two spears, and a bow. Depending on the number of survivors they find the next few days, it would be hard to imagine every single survivor in that group obtaining a weapon along the week.

Maybe it would be wise to wait or even call John’s group in the task of recovering the city from the hands of the monsters, but Ryan wasn’t an official member of Lilian’s group, nor did he want to be one, so he couldn’t speak for them. Since he also didn’t want to meet with Daniel and Mia ever again, he wanted to finish his business in Shreveport in less than one week... it would be a difficult task, but Ryan was training hard to achieve that.

Congratulations! The skill Art of Sniping has leveled up.

Art of Sniping Lv 2 → Lv 3

Effect: Increases the chance of hitting targets over long distances when they are not aware of your presence by one percent per level.

You obtained 01 status point.

Congratulations! The skill Rapid Shot has leveled up.

Rapid Shot Lv 2 → Lv 3

Effect: You can shoot an additional arrow. The number of arrows will increase every ten levels.

Cost: 02 mana

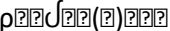
You obtained 01 status point.

Congratulations! The skill Lesser Wind Enchantment has leveled up.

Lesser Wind Enchantment Lv 2 → Lv 3

Effect: Increases the power of your attacks by adding the properties of fire. The extra damage caused will be equal to your intelligence + 20%.

Cost: 05 mana per attack.

You obtained 01 status point. 

While Luke and Lilian were working as bait to lure the Sahuagins, Ryan hid between the branches of a tree in order to attack the monsters by surprise. Thanks to it, he increased the efficacy of certain skills like Art of Sniping. Since he also didn't have to worry about being found anymore, his power increased quite a bit. Instead of four, he could kill six Sahuagins before they could get close enough to attack. Still... it wasn't enough. If ordinary Sahuagins could block his attacks, the bosses could do too. That was why he decided to train Rapid Shot and Lesser Wind Enchantment, to decrease their chances of reacting on time.

At the end of that day, those were the skills he managed to level up. It wasn't enough, but considering that Ryan also would hunt monsters at night, that much progress was acceptable. In the end, all groups reunited at the police station and celebrated the success of their missions.

Thanks to Ryan, Lilian, and Luke's hard work, the other groups only fought a few times and, thanks to it, had a lot of time to search for food and survivors. Their numbers increased by ten, and they also managed to find enough food to feed that whole group for three days. In comparison, Ryan's group only brought back to the camp ten weapons and some rings, it didn't look like much, but those who received the weapons became impressed by the feeling of power those weapons gave them.

In any case, Ryan had planned to hunt monsters at night, but it looked he would have to help the survivors learn some skills. His job was easy. He just has to use his enchantments and make everyone

learn the elemental resistances. That work took him a few hours, but given that he also trained those spells, he didn't feel that bothered by it.

Class: Hunter Lv 08 / Elementalist Lv 03/-

Race: Night Demon /-/-

Rank: 1501h

Health: 31/31 (0, 0566)

Mana: 48/48 (0, 0566)

Stamina: 40/40 (0, 0566)

Strength: 10 (+3)

Dexterity: 51 (+23) (+12)

Speed: 27 (+8)

Intelligence: 08 (+6) (+3)

Endurance: 07 (+8)

Control: 06 (+5) (+6)

Mentality: 07

Luck: 13

Recovery: 30 (+1) (+3)

Willpower: 09

Coins: 3652

Status: 00

Skill List

Offensive Physical Skills: Power Shot Lv 07, Throw Lv 02, Dash Lv 02, Rapid Shot Lv 03, Herculean Strength Lv 03,

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 04, Swordsmanship Lv 02, Alert Lv 02, Cook Lv 01, Stalk Lv 01, Art of Sniping Lv 02, Tracking Lv 01, Spearmanship Lv 02, Knife Mastery Lv 03, Martial Arts Lv 02, Craft Lv 02, Shield Mastery Lv 01,

Spells: Analysis Lv 01, Lurk Lv 01, Mana Transfusion Lv 03, Meditation Lv 05, Flame Arrow Lv 06, Appraisal Lv 02, Lesser Fire Enchantment Lv 03, Lesser Water Enchantment Lv 03, Lesser Wind Enchantment Lv 04,

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

Chapter 72

“Hey, Tristan...” Cole said while looking at Tristan with dubious eyes. “Are you sure he came this way?”

“Yeah... Ryan asked if I knew something about dungeons,” Tristan replied while looking around. “I didn’t know anything about them since he was the one who explained about their existence to me. Still, he stopped asking about it when I mentioned a swarm of goblins that appeared around here...”

It took a few days, but Cole’s group managed to clear the slime’s dungeon and make everyone in the group obtain a class. The group now had fifteen people, thanks to the addition of Tristan and Natalia... Still, maybe it was because Tristan talked about the Flame Arrows Ryan used. The group had ten hunters, five swordsmen, and nothing a single thief. It wasn’t wise to lose the chance to obtain information about a class, but given that their survival was on the line, no one wanted to be the sacrificial fodder, and no one couldn’t force each other to do so.

Regardless, they cleared the dungeon the previous day, but they only left the dungeon at sunrise of the next day because they didn’t know when or if they would find the next dungeon. Fighting against slimes was still scary even for Cole, Carter, and Anna, but they couldn’t show that. Just like Ryan, they realized the potential of the classes, so they needed to get more classes and make more humans obtain them as well. Even though they spent the day walking, not a single survivor complained because their leaders weren’t showing their doubts, and there were few things more comforting than a confident leader.

“It should be around here... I’m sure of it,” Tristan while looking around.

“You shouldn’t trust your memories too much,” Natalia said. “What you saw happened a week ago, after all. Since many things happened, that memory probably isn’t trustworthy anymore.”

“Thank you for the encouragement...” Tristan sighed. “Since you are so eager to thank Ryan for helping us, then you can look for his traces since my memories can’t be trusted.”

“Shut up...” Natalia looked away, a bit embarrassed. “Based on the things I heard of him, it seems he is quite harsh and imprudent... and he didn’t hesitate in leaving a group that needed his help. So, I’m not eager to thank him... Still, he kept you alive and even brought something to heal my wounds, so at the very least, he needs to hear my thank you.”

“Yes, yes...” Tristan sighed again. “The world is ending, and everyone needs to hear a thank you.”

“... I can see something up ahead,” Carter said while looking in the distance.

“Hey, isn’t that grass weird?” Anna said, pointing to the tall grass on the right side of the road.

“Tristan, Natalia, and Carter,” Cole said. “You guys go and check what Carter saw in the middle of the road. We will check the grass around here...”

Everyone readied their weapons, even though Cole’s group had to sacrifice a lot of coins, they armed everyone. After all, even with classes, they wouldn’t be of much help without weapons. However, they didn’t find any monster nearby... ρ??∫??(?)???

“Ah... Ryan hid my motorcycle here,” Cole laughed.

“Are you sure?” Anna frowned.

“Yes... this is definitely the marks of a motorcycle,” Cole replied. “Besides, I recognize the marks of tires on the ground. It is barely visible, but those definitely belonged to my motorcycle.”

“Then, what Carter saw ahead...” Anna hesitated.

“Ryan probably saw that too and then decided to hide the motorcycle here... Mmm?” Cole frowned. “It is weird, but I can see some marks indicating that the motorcycle left this place more than a few times.”

“He isn’t here anymore, right?” Anna asked.

“Yeah... the chances of that are quite high,” Cole rubbed his chin. “It is a pity, but our goal is to get the next class. We can always look for Ryan later... wait a minute.”

Cole also found some weird marks on the ground... the marks that someone had dug a hole there, and soon he regretted digging that hole. The survivors that were around puked when they saw a human arm there... it was already rotting, so the smell was strong and very unpleasant.

“Hey, we found signs of blood... ugh!” Tristan suddenly approached and puked when he saw the arm.

“Shit... why am I so curious,” Cole bit his lips in annoyance when he noticed that his actions dropped the morale of the group.

Anna wanted to ask, but it was unnecessary. It was obvious who’s that arm belonged to. Still, if only a part of Ryan’s arm was there, it meant that he was alive. They didn’t know what he fought that made him lose his arm, but it was clear that was something fearsome.

“... What did you guys find?” Cole asked while he covered the arm with dirt again.

“Something got dragged down to East of here,” Carter replied. “We found a lot of blood, most likely...”

“Human’s blood...” Cole looked around in search of enemies, but he didn’t find a single one. “Let’s follow the trail. Ryan probably did the same thing to find the dungeon.

Although some survivors didn’t like the idea, they didn’t complain. As much as Cole, Carter, and Anna were insane for having that idea, they were reliable to sacrifice their coins to help others, and if they wouldn’t lose anything by following their leadership... probably.

After walking for half an hour, they finally found the dungeon and what seemed to be a humans’ camp. Unfortunately, Cole’s group tracking skills sucked, so at the same time, they found that group, they were noticed by the same group. Cole panicked when he saw the people in the distance, grabbing their weapons and preparing for battle. He couldn’t let humans kill each other, not when the world was in such a situation, so he left his weapon behind and approached the group with his arms raised. A middle-aged man did the same, and they met each other at the entrance of the camp.

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“Hello, my name is Cole,” Cole said while he was studying the tall, middle-aged man in front of him. “My group and I aren’t looking for trouble.”

“Cole?” John frowned. “What is the name of your two other friends?”

Cole frowned when he heard that. Somehow the middle-aged man knew about Anna and Carter, but then the dots began to connect, and then Cole relaxed. Ryan certainly had been there, and he had mentioned them to that man.

“Carter and Anna... Ryan told you about us, right?” Cole asked, but then he got tense again, imagining that perhaps that group had tortured or done something worse to Ryan, but then he relaxed when he saw a little girl in a wheelchair inside the camp.

“... He never said that your group would be so big,” John sighed. “He only mentioned you three... anyway. You guys can come. You look exhausted, and it would be rude to keep a police officer standing like that. My name is John. Nice to meet you.”

All of Cole’s worries disappeared. His instincts told him that that man wasn’t an enemy. Besides, if he were an enemy, he would have lured he and his friends to the dungeon by saying that Ryan was there. In any case, despite the fact that Cole wasn’t worried, Anna and Carter weren’t that relaxed. Even though they had the numerical advantage, they didn’t drop their guard when they entered the camp.

After talking for a while, Cole and the others heard what happened to Ryan and how those people were related to him. It was quite fortunate that he found some friends so soon, and that was why Cole couldn’t understand why he left his friends so readily.

“I see...” Cole sighed. “Ryan really looked like a stubborn guy, but I didn’t think he would challenge another boss alone... thanks to it, he lost part of his right arm.”

“Excuse me...” Anna said. “Why would he leave his fiancée behind?”

“Well... there are some reasons for that...” John face-palmed, while Daniel and Mia lowered her face. “It will make us look suspicious, but talking about such personal matters behind Ryan’s back would only make him mad. So, I will refrain from doing so.”

“Ah... I can easily imagine that,” Cole laughed. “Anyway, when he left this place and where he went?”

“Four days ago, and he headed to Shreveport...” John sighed. “Even though he just lost an arm, he was already looking for another dungeon to clear... that boy is really something else.”

“Four days... since then, your group has been training inside the dungeon,” Cole said, a bit surprised. “I imagine that you aren’t confident in your power to defeat the boss yet. Well, given the information you gave us, that is more than understandable... Do you think we can join forces and defeat the boss? I believe that will benefit us all.”

“Of course, if you guys already obtained your first class, then you will be of great help,” John smiled. “But even if all of us fight, I can’t imagine we defeating the boss without suffering some losses. We need at least one more week to get powerful enough to pull that off.”

“I see... then how about we escort a part of your group to the slime’s dungeon?” Cole asked. “We will help your group obtain the first class, and that will increase our survivability even more.”

“Mmm... what do you two think of this idea?” John rubbed his chin while looking at Daniel and Mia.

“I think it is a good idea,” Daniel nodded. “We don’t have spells like Flame Arrow yet, but we will need to bombard the Hobgoblin with it.”

“I also think that the hunter class will benefit a lot of us,” Mia said.

“Well then... we will depart tomorrow,” John declared and then offered a handshake. “I’m counting on you from today onward.”

“Likewise,” Cole accepted the handshake.

That was how Cole and John’s group joined forces. Since both of them didn’t like to take too many risks, they got along really well. In any case, time was something they couldn’t afford to lose, so John and Daniel spent the night looking for a vehicle that would give them the chance to transport the survivors to the slimes’ dungeon. They found one, and thanks to it, their movement increased quite a bit.

Although some of the survivors didn’t get along at the beginning, all the feelings of uneasiness disappeared when all the members of John’s group obtained their first class. From that day onward, they began to be more proactive and also taught others how they should fight the goblins.

Exactly one week after they joined forces, Cole and John decided to challenge the Hobgoblin with all their survivors. They didn't want to lose a single one of them. No one wants to lose part of their limbs either. So, to avoid that, they made a formation. Eight swordsmen would be the frontline, and their sole job was to stop the Hobgoblin's attack. Meanwhile, all the other survivors would attack the monster with Flame Arrows.

As expected, the swordsmen wouldn't be able to stop Hobgoblin's rampage if they tried to attack as well, but even though they broke some bones, the frontline held back the monster while the backline attacked with Flame Arrows. They didn't use gasoline, so the flames only burned the boss.

After just two minutes, the creature died. It was only obvious given that almost twenty people attacked it with Flame Arrows... Still, only twenty-four people had the chance to obtain a class. So, three of the survivors didn't obtain it. However, the next day, a new boss appeared, and those who didn't obtain a class, finally had their chance.

They didn't have much food, but Cole and John decided to make a party and celebrate the fact that they cleared the dungeon and obtained their second class. Unfortunately, the rank they obtained wasn't that high, so the reward they received was just a few extra coins.

"Well, I guess it is time to go to Shreveport," John said.

"You are right," Cole nodded.

Chapter 74

Five days had passed since Ryan joined Lilian's group and began to train his skills to snipe the bosses. He didn't know if he was strong enough to do so, but it was time to check if he could do it.

Class: Hunter Lv 08 / Elementalist Lv 05/—

Race: Night Demon /—/—

Rank: 1501st

Health: 32/32 (0, 0, 0765)

Mana: 58/58 (0, 0, 0765)

Stamina: 47/47(0, 0,0765)

Strength: 10 (+3)

Dexterity: 61 (+23) (+12)

Speed: 30 (+8)

Intelligence: 09 (+10) (+3)

Endurance: 07 (+8)

Control: 06 (+5) (+10)

Mentality: 07

Luck: 18

Recovery: 40 (+1) (+5)

Willpower: 09

Coins: 9321

Status: 00

Skill List

Offensive Physical Skills: Power Shot Lv 09, Throw Lv 04, Dash Lv 04, Rapid Shot Lv 05, Herculean Strength Lv 04,

Passive Physical Skills: Eagle Eyes Lv 08, Concentration Lv 08, Archery Lv 08, Accuracy Lv 07, Stealth Lv 04, Pain Resistance Lv 01, Perception Lv 03, Rage Lv 05, Precision Lv 05, Swordsmanship Lv 02, Alert Lv 02, Cook Lv 02, Stalk Lv 02, Art of Sniping Lv 04, Tracking Lv 05, Spearmanship Lv 02, Knife Mastery Lv 03, Martial Arts Lv 02, Craft Lv 02, Shield Mastery Lv 03, $\rho_{??} \cup_{??} (??)_{??}$

Spells: Analysis Lv 03, Lurk Lv 03, Mana Transfusion Lv 05, Meditation Lv 06, Flame Arrow Lv 07, Appraisal Lv 04, Lesser Fire Enchantment Lv 03, Lesser Water Enchantment Lv 03, Lesser Wind Enchantment Lv 06,

Support Skills: Earth Resistance Lv 01, Fear Resistance Lv 02, Fire Resistance Lv 03, Heat Resistance Lv 04, Sleep Resistance Lv 05, Nocturnal Eyes Lv 01

Just looking at his status screen wasn't enough to make Ryan feel confident. As a hunter, he learned that results were everything, and the result that would make him feel confident was to kill a Sahuagin Duelist in a single moment.

"Are you ready?" Lilian asked.

"Yes... for the fifth time, I'm ready," Ryan sighed.

Ryan was two hundred meters away from the entrance of the Sahuagins' dungeon, and he was sitting above a truck that the survivors found. He would fire his bolts from there since it was evident that his projectile would lose altitude and speed at that distance. If Ryan succeeds or fails, he probably will have to run, but if the Sahuagins leave their position, one hundred or so survivors were already hidden nearby to attack the monsters from the sides. Even if he doesn't kill a single one with a pre-emptive strike, he will lure them toward a trap. The ordinary survivors weren't that impressive, but all of them

had weapons, so at the very least, they would be able to buy Ryan's time in order to let him attack the monsters' heads.

It was hard to believe that Lilian came up with that plan. The chances of more than a few survivors dying were very high, after all. But everyone was fully aware that the bosses were protecting the dungeon for a reason... a reason that wouldn't be good for humans. The survivors didn't want to die, but they have no other choice but to fight.

"Why did I accept this crazy idea?" Ryan muttered and then sighed.

Ryan was in a perfect position. No matter what happens, the truck driver would move away from the Sahuagins, and Ryan's life would be safe. However, that didn't mean that he wouldn't feel guilty if people die while he survives since he was the core part of the plan.

"Whatever... Let's finish this," Ryan said and then prepared to aim.

Even though the wind was a bit strong, Ryan's Lesser Enchantment could make the projectile ignore the wind, so he didn't have to worry about it. His sole worry was to aim and pierce the head of what seemed to be the leader of the Sahuagins Duelists. Still, the trigger seemed heavy that day, and his eyes weren't focusing like usual. Ryan was nervous... because many people could die or survive, according to his performance.

Sahuagin Duelist – Lv 10

Health: 600/600

Mana: 300/300

Stamina: 400/400

Ryan sighed. Thanks to the apprehension, he ended up using mana without the need. However, he didn't, and he couldn't use all his mana to increase the power of a single attack... only stamina could, so that was fine. Ryan got tired of taking his sweet time to deal the first blow, so this time he focused for

real. The atmosphere around him changed, and everything disappeared from Ryan's eyesight... Ryan was in another world, a world where he could only see himself, the crossbow, the invisible line that connected his bolt and target.

Suddenly, Ryan felt the line getting straight, and then he concentrated. The line began to move, but he was confident that while using Power Shot, the line would eventually stop on the target, and so it did. After exactly ten seconds, the line stopped right in the target's right eye. The creature moved and then found Ryan, but before it could try anything, the iron bolt pierced its eye, and then the skull, and the brain... Ryan didn't expect that, but the monster's head exploded thanks to his Wind Enchantment and the power of a fully powered Power Shot.

You obtained two hundred coins.

Ryan sighed in relief. Meanwhile, Lilian and Luke opened their eyes widely when they saw that Ryan killed a boss in a single strike. They didn't know that several skills had to work together for that to happen, and they assumed that a single skill was the cause of that.

Ignoring the annoying eyes full of surprise, Ryan readied the next bolt and then activated Lesser Wind Enchantment. He didn't have the stamina to kill another monster in the same manner, but he could wound the other twenty-nine as much as possible. Ryan was determined to use all his mana potions that day.

When his line of sight, his bolt, and the target aligned even on the slightest, Ryan pulled the trigger. It didn't matter if he hit the monsters' feet, arms, or even fin. He just wants to hit them before they get close. When the fifth of them got injured, they finally found Ryan, and they began to run.

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You obtained two hundred coins.

You obtained two hundred coins.

Ryan managed to wound the other five Sahuagin Duelists before they finally approached, and somehow, he also killed two others. The enemy's force decreased to thirty strong to seventeen strong and ten others not so strong.

"Good job, leave the rest to us," Luke patted Ryan's shoulder and then jumped from the truck.

"If they get too close, run and don't look back," Lilian said to the bus driver. "Don't worry. We can handle this."

Ryan did his job. In fact, he did more than everyone had expected from a man that only had one hand. Still, he didn't feel satisfied with just that. He didn't want to play the hero, but his conscience was annoying, and he wanted to prevent as many deaths as possible. Besides, if he escapes and Lilian, Luke, and other survivors fail, he would have a harder time clearing the dungeon.

"Just move fifty meters backward," Ryan said.

"What?" The bus driver said, astonished. "But the leader said..."

"Just shut up and obey it," Ryan said, a bit annoyed. "Don't worry. You won't die by the hands of those monsters."

The truck driver gulped when he heard that. It sounded like a threat, but Ryan didn't look at him, not even for a second. Besides, he also saw Ryan's skills, so he was confident that Ryan could, at the very least, slow down the monsters if they try to approach.

Ryan still had five mana potions. That would be enough to shot twenty iron bolts enchanted with the power of the wind. The monsters wouldn't be able to block them, so he just had to aim properly, and now that they were running toward him, that wasn't a problem.

The truck driver moved the vehicle and stopped at the place Ryan indicated. The Sahuagins looked ecstatic while moving, but they were forced to stop when the survivors left the piles of rubble in which they were hiding. The monsters got caught by surprise, but those who didn't have been wounded by Ryan managed to react on time and slash their sword at the survivors.

While drinking a mana potion, Ryan aimed his crossbow at the monsters. The very moment his aim was over the creatures, he pulled the trigger. Since the survivors attacked the monsters by the sides, Ryan had a clear view and didn't have to worry about wounding an ally, but he still lost some time looking for those who were being overwhelmed by the monsters. $\rho \int \sqrt{x} \ln(x) dx$

You obtained 115 coins.

While Ryan was looking for his next target, he saw Luke and Lilian fighting a single Sahuagin. The monster tried to pierce them at the same time, but after moving to the sides, they evaded the blow. Then suddenly, their bodies blurred, and in the next moment, they attacked the monster's arms. The creature dropped its weapons, and in the next moment, Luke and Lilian crushed the monster's skulls with their elbows.

Ryan wondered how much stronger they got considering that a party of twenty people had to fight to defeat a creature like that... in any case, Ryan found another target and soon forgot about it. Even though the survivors had divided into teams of five to attack the monsters, it wasn't enough to stop the enraged creatures. Ryan saw the weapon of a skinny teenager being cut in half, and then he aimed to offer support, but before his arrow could pierce the monster's neck, the creature beheaded the boy. Ryan's heart grew cold while the head was falling on the ground, but he endured the grief and chose the next target. A person he didn't know just died in front of him, but that still upset him greatly, but he couldn't stop now.

That would make things difficult, but at the very least, it would increase Ryan's hit rate and attack speed. Since the monsters were busy fighting the survivors, he didn't have to worry about using Lesser Wind Enchantment. Instead of that, he used Rapid Shot.

Lilian and Luke frowned when they finally noticed the sound of sharp objects hissing through the air, but they didn't have time to worry about it. Instead of looking for wounded Sahuagins, they looked for those that were causing problems to the survivors.

Ryan's firing and hit rate increased, and he managed to wound several Sahuagins in just a few seconds, now he was having difficulties to see the ones who weren't wounded. Still, it didn't take long for Ryan to feel that annoying feeling again. While he was drinking a potion, he found his next target, but he didn't have enough mana to hit the monster. When the iron bolt finally appeared, Ryan pulled the trigger, but at the same time, a short-haired woman got split in half from head to toe.

“Shit... Shit!” Ryan bit his lips, and due to it, the taste of iron quickly spread through his mouth.

That happened again and again... it was a war, it was unavoidable that he would see humans being dying, but even so... Ryan couldn't just accept it so readily. It didn't take long for Ryan to drink all his mana potions and be forced to see the survivors being killed by Sahuagin Duelists. He killed alone ten of ten, but thirty survivors still died in just a few minutes.

Like Luke and Lilian, some survivors who were skilled survived almost unharmed, but others like Jacob suffered serious wounds. As long as they don't bleed to death or their hearts and brains were destroyed, they would recover, but no one felt like celebrating despite the victory.

Men, women, teenagers, elders... that afternoon, a lot of people died. It couldn't even be compared to the number of people who died due to the dragons' rampage, but that still shocked Ryan. He just watched the corpses being carried from the top of the truck... while he was thinking about a few things.

“Those were weak died... They died because I was weak too. I didn't have any obligation to save them, but I didn't want to see them die either... but I had to... because I am weak.”

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As far as he could tell, Ryan didn't have to work with Lilian anymore. Still, he decided to wait for her and her friends before heading to the dungeon. Some Sahuagins left the dungeon while they were dealing with the corpses, but Ryan killed them with ease.

Around noon, the battlefield had been somewhat cleaned, and Lilian approached Ryan while carrying an iron bow, a pair of boots, and chainmail. He had completely forgotten about drops, but the other survivors didn't miss it because they found them near the dead bodies of their comrades.

“Here, it is yours,” Lilian said. “You deserve it. I won't accept a no for an answer.”

Iron Bow

Effect: Consumes five points of mana to create an iron arrow. Dexterity + 7

Durability: 45/45

Chainmail

Effect: Health + 5, Endurance + 4

Durability: 55/45

Leather Boots

Effect: Speed + 3, Stamina + 5

Durability: 55/45

“Well, I will accept them,” Ryan said. “Even though the bow is useless on my hands right now.”

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“You showed me some impressive feats this week,” Lilian said with a serious expression on her face. “Without using words, you even convinced several survivors that they should fight for their lives. So, I’m sure you will find a way to heal your arm soon enough.”

Ryan didn’t like that. That sense of familiarity... feeling as if Lilian was a pretty good friend. Truth to be told, he hated it. Ryan didn’t want to risk feeling the same things he felt before. It was unreasonable, and even though having a few good friends was worth the trouble of maybe losing them one day or, even worse, be betrayed by them, Ryan didn’t want that. The status quo was boring, but it was better than live his life where he constantly fears the possibility of losing things or of being betrayed.

“I don’t think you will need our help, but I would like to ask you to let us go with you to the end of the dungeon,” Lilian said. “The sooner the survivors obtain their class, the better.”

Ryan was too tired to say no and start an argument. Besides, the feeling he had right at that moment will only get worse if he refuses Lilian and someone dies later. If anything, the sense of guilty would be stronger than the fear, so Ryan only nodded at her words. Besides, truth to be told, Ryan was exhausted. Even though his health, mana, and stamina had been recovered already, he was exhausted. The mental strain of such a large battle had been that intense.

“I guess this is another reason to keep fighting solo.”

Even if most of them were strangers, it was only natural that Ryan would feel bad after seeing so many people die. Ryan noticed that was a weakness of his part... his mind was weak, but that only showed him that he had room for improvement.

After Lilian divided the survivors into two teams, she sent half of them back to the base. Most of them were too injured and needed to rest as much as possible. Thanks to that, Lilian made half of the strongest survivors escort them. The number of people entering the dungeon was twenty-one, more than enough to decimate the Sahuagins that tried to mess with them. Given the battle experience they accumulated that day, the survivors dealt with them with ease. Ryan didn't even have to use his crossbow. However, when they reached the end of the dungeon, they found the monsters' last present—a group of fifteen bosses waiting for them.

“... I should have known,” Ryan sighed and then equipped his crossbow. “I'm so fucking tired of all of you. Be thankful that I won't have time to waste.”

The other survivors felt the same way. Thanks to it, the number of monsters didn't surprise them. Lilian and Luke led the charge. Their movements were even sharper than before. Before they even could reach the monsters, the monsters charged at them as well. However, before five of those creatures could even take the first step, they fell to the ground. Something had happened that not even the survivors or the Sahuagin duelists noticed. Only Ryan noticed because that was the result of his attacks. The iron bolts' power added with Lesser Wind Enchantment hit the monster's legs and heavily wounded them. After that, the battle became much simpler since now the survivors could fight 2 against one. In the end, the battle only lasted for a couple of minutes.

Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Earth Bullet.

Effect: It fires an Earth Bullet. The damage caused will be your intelligence + 20%

Cost: 05 mana

You obtained 01 status point.

Ryan didn't want to believe in craps such a fate and destiny. So, he decided to think that increasing his luck was finally paying off since he obtained a tome after that fight. It was better to think that way instead of thinking that destiny was trying to cheer him up.

In any case, the day was far from over. Ryan headed toward the treasure box the very moment the last Sahuagin fell. He was finally going to obtain his third class, which might be the last one, so he had to choose wisely. Become a merchant was out of the question. He had no use for that class, so Ryan had to choose between Monk and Gunslinger. It was clear that the monk's healing skill won't grant him the chance to regenerate his arm. Considering that, Ryan felt more compelled to become a gunslinger and increase his firepower even more, but was that the right choice?

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In the end, Ryan decided to choose the Monk class. For the good or for worst, Ryan needed the power to heal himself now more than ever since he decided to fight solo as much as possible. Even though he had already been doing that since the very beginning, still, Heal would make Ryan save some coins, coins that he would have to use to buy potions since things were getting harder by the minute.

Congratulations! You have become a Level one Monk!

You obtained the following skills: Fighter's Spirit, Monk's Style, and Heal.

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

Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Fighter's Spirit.

Effect: Increases your speed and strength by one point per level when fighting without weapons.

Cost: 10 mana and 10 stamina

You obtained 01 status point.

Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Monk's Style.

Effect: Decreases your foes' endurance by one point per level when attacking using punches and kicks.

You obtained 01 status point.

Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Heal.

Effect: Heals one point of health per second.

Cost: 01 mana per second.

You obtained 01 status point.

In the end, Ryan's fears were right on the spot. Two of those three skills will only come in handy in very specific moments. That wasn't so bad given that the exchange rate between mana and health was pretty good and could even get better, but Ryan couldn't help but sigh.

Congratulations! You have obtained your third class! As such, you have become one of the 1200 humans who obtained three classes! Keep clearing dungeons and defeating monsters to raise your rank, and you might receive some nice rewards!

Current Rank: 1200th

You obtained 5.000 coins.

“I had forgotten about this...” Ryan muttered. “Coins this time, huh? While this isn’t so bad, I was expecting something more impressive.”

Ryan didn’t receive anything while he increased his rank by three hundred. So, it looked like those rewards will only come when he clear dungeons. That was fine by him. Even though he was imagining he wouldn’t get anything by reaching the eleventh hundredth position, he knew that he certainly would get something interesting once he becomes part of the one thousand strongest humans on Earth. Maybe they weren’t the strongest, but they certainly were the ones who had more combat experience.

Regardless, Ryan’s job was over, so he headed toward the exit of the dungeon. Only to be stopped by Lilian and Luke. (?)

“Where are you going in such a hurry?” Lilian asked.

“Yeah, although we lost some comrades, we recovered the city,” Luke said. “We have to celebrate this victory.”

“Celebrate for me then,” Ryan said. “I’m going to the next dungeon.”

Lilian and Luke were left speechless, even though they were both two of the most fearsome survivors, not even then wanted to keep fighting for that long. While they knew that clearing dungeons were important, they needed a break. The last few days have been pretty intense, after all.

“It is getting dark, Ryan,” Lilian said. “You need to at least rest during the night.”

“Don’t worry about me,” Ryan said. “I have the skills to fight without any problems even at night.”

“I guess we can’t stop you,” Luke sighed. “Having someone like you around would be reassuring, but I guess it can’t be helped. Just make sure to come now and then.”

“That will probably be impossible,” Ryan said. “I have no intention of returning to Shreveport.”

“Not even if you find some survivors might be looking for a survivor camp like ours?” Luke asked.

“I will make sure to give them the right directions,” Ryan replied.

Lilian touched her little brother’s shoulder and then shrugged. Ryan was resolute in his decision, and it wasn’t their place to stop them. Although he was a quiet guy, the siblings grew fond of his presence. Someone reliable was always a good company when things start to get complicated, after all.

“I wish you luck, Ryan,” Lilian said. “I don’t think we will leave Shreveport, so if you need a place to rest and friends to count, you can always return.”

“... Good luck to you too,” Ryan sighed and then headed toward the entrance.

Ryan felt that he had heard that sentence pretty frequently, but it was only natural since he didn’t want to stay in the same place for long. He didn’t even remember some people who greeted him while Ryan was leaving the dungeon, it looked like they heard about his plans, but that really didn’t matter. Regardless, before leaving, Ryan had to make good use of his coins. Apparently, the nearest dungeon wasn’t that far away, but he couldn’t tell when he would be able to use the shop. So, it was better to use all his coins with decent equipment. Much to Ryan’s surprise, he found a steel crossbow. The cost was pretty reasonable. The problem was that Ryan didn’t find any crossbow better than that. There were other crossbows better than one, but they were just steel crossbows with special effects. For example, some of them could shoot firebolts.

Steel Crossbow

Effect: Consumes eight points of mana to create a steel dart. Dexterity + 15

Durability: 60/60

Price: 10.000 coins

Blazing Steel Crossbow

Effect: Consumes ten points of mana to create a steel dart enchanted with fire. Dexterity + 15, intelligence + 5

Durability: 60/60

Price: 15.000 coins

While the second option wasn't bad, Ryan would be in a bind if he finds some opponents that can resist fire attacks. That kind of weapon would be exceptional against some kinds of foes, but that advantage would come with a price.

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Ryan already had some magic projectiles, and he also could enchant his attacks to a certain extent, so most likely, the enchanted crossbow was supposed to be a weapon that didn't have the skills he had. The extra status points were sweet, but not enough for Ryan to decide to become someone who only hunts monsters of a certain attribute. So, he bought the steel crossbow.

Although Ryan could buy other items that were better than the current ones he was wearing, Ryan decided to trust his luck and hope that the monsters eventually would drop them. For the time being, he decided to do something a bit risky with his remaining coins... he used all of them to buy seven copies of the same ring.

Ring of the Immortal

Effect: Increases the user's recovery by five points.

Durability: 25/25

"Well, now... this is more like it," Ryan smiled in satisfaction.

Class: Hunter Lv 08 / Elementalist Lv 05/ Monk Lv 01 (-)

Race: Night Demon /-/-

Rank: 1200th

Health: 43/43 (0, 1399)

Mana: 59/59 (0, 1399)

Stamina: 53/53 (0,1399)

Strength: 10 (+5)

Dexterity: 61 (+23) (+12)

Speed: 30 (+10) (+3)

Intelligence: 09 (+10) (+3)

Endurance: 07 (+16)

Control: 06 (+6) (+10)

Mentality: 07 ρ??√??(?)???

Luck: 18

Recovery: 40 (+1) (+43)

Willpower: 09

Coins: 523

Status: 04

Skill List

Offensive Physical Skills: Power Shot Lv 09, Throw Lv 04, Dash Lv 04, Rapid Shot Lv 05, Herculean Strength Lv 04, Fighter's Spirit Lv 01,

Passive Physical Skills: Eagle Eyes Lv 08, Concentration Lv 08, Archery Lv 08, Accuracy Lv 07, Stealth Lv 04, Pain Resistance Lv 01, Perception Lv 03, Rage Lv 05, Precision Lv 05, Swordsmanship Lv 02, Alert Lv 02, Cook Lv 02, Stalk Lv 02, Art of Sniping Lv 04, Tracking Lv 06, Spearmanship Lv 02, Knife Mastery Lv 03, Martial Arts Lv 02, Craft Lv 02, Shield Mastery Lv 03, Monk Style Lv 01,

Spells: Analysis Lv 03, Lurk Lv 03, Mana Transfusion Lv 05, Meditation Lv 06, Flame Arrow Lv 07, Appraisal Lv 04, Lesser Fire Enchantment Lv 03, Lesser Water Enchantment Lv 03, Lesser Wind Enchantment Lv 06, Earth Bullet Lv 01, Heal Lv 01,

Support Skills: Earth Resistance Lv 01, Fear Resistance Lv 02, Fire Resistance Lv 03, Heat Resistance Lv 04, Sleep Resistance Lv 05, Nocturnal Eyes Lv 01

Ryan's recovery doubled, and so was his capacity to attack. Well, not really since his new weapon consumed a bit more mana, but that didn't change the fact that he was satisfied. With more recovery, he would be able to recover his stamina and mana faster, thus increasing the leveling up the speed of his skills. As well as increasing his health regeneration, but to health work properly, he would have to eat quite a lot.

Regardless, Ryan left the dungeon once and for all and then headed toward the east side of the lake. Although his status increased, he couldn't hope to cross the river by swimming while carrying chainmail. That was impossible. Besides, there was no telling what he would find inside the lake. Maybe some Sahuagins were hiding in there, and fighting them in their habitat was close to suicide.

Although Ryan was forced to take the roundabout way, he reached the other side of the lake before sunset. It was all thanks to his new recovery and Dash. That being said, Ryan's muscles were quite sure since the number of things he was carrying increased.

"The velociraptors dungeon must be North of here... still, why I didn't find any of them?"

Even if the Sahuagins claimed that region to them, the monsters should have noticed that they lost control over it. They were beasts that had some crazy senses, after all. There were two possible explanations, another group of humans was controlling the dungeon, or the velociraptors found a big number of foes somewhere else. Either way, Ryan was going to investigate since he needed to see what would happen if he gains another class at that moment.

"I'm pretty sure I can obtain an unlimited number of classes. Those parameters in the class option are proof of that. If people could only have three, such a thing wouldn't be shown. Does that mean that I can also have the blood of more than three types of monsters? If that is possible with my class, then it should be possible with my race. Still, I have to confirm it."

Although it was dark and that area had many trees, and the vegetation was pretty dense, Ryan could see things pretty well. At least well enough to not get spooked by the shadows of some bushes and rocks. It was pretty early, but suddenly, the air around that area changed. For a second, Ryan thought the temperature had dropped, but that hadn't been the case. It was his instincts alerting him of danger. Some monsters were lurking around in the darkness and they were getting closer. As if that situation wasn't tense enough, Ryan suddenly heard a cry... a newborn baby's cry.

"Seriously?" Ryan opened his eyes widely in shock.

The air around the area changed again and Ryan felt a little more relaxed, or at least his nervousness tried to make him feel that way. It looked like the monsters changed their targets, and Ryan wasn't supposed to be their dinner anymore. However, knowing that a newborn kid was out, there didn't make things as easy for him.

Amidst the darkness, Ryan sped up toward where the cry and that feeling of danger were coming from. There was no mistake. The monsters really were aiming at the kid. Still, even with his current speed, Ryan didn't find the monsters fast enough. Suddenly, things got eerily silent.

“Shit, shit...” Ryan bit his lips in annoyance.

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Eventually, Ryan began to smell the scent of blood, and thanks to that, he couldn't help but frown. If the monsters really found the baby, they were supposed to be making a lot of noise, but they weren't. Without having any other choice, Ryan took a deep breath and then stopped moving to concentrate. The smell of blood was too strong, so he had to find another way to look for the monsters. Even though he could see pretty well in the darkness of the night, Ryan was at a level where he could identify someone hiding within it. So, he had to use his ears.

Fortunately, it didn't take long for him to feel something. It was faint, but Ryan heard the rough breathing of something. It was probably coming from a human since the sound was barely audible and not wild. With his new crossbow in hand, Ryan approached the origin of that sound. Only to find after a couple of minutes the corpses of several velociraptors...

“What happened here... the body of monsters were supposed to disappear after a while, but those didn't. So, it is clear that a fight broke out recently, and yet, I didn't notice? It happened before I reached this area?”

It was barely noticeable, but Ryan found a trail of blood. Whoever defeated those monsters suffered some wounds. Ryan followed the trail only to find even more velociraptors... as expected, he was getting close to the dungeon. However, such thoughts disappeared from his mind when he found a woman sitting on the floor with her back against a tree. Although she was covered in blood from head to toe, the baby she was carrying in her arms was completely fine.

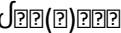
“...” Ryan closed his eyes and bit his lips when he got closer and noticed that the woman had lost both of her legs.

When he looked to the sides, he found other piles of velociraptors... the woman looked pretty young, and the baby was enveloped in a cloth that didn't seem appropriate. By the look of things, she gave birth in the last few days, and even in her weakened state, she was forced to fight for her life and to protect her child. Suddenly, the young woman opened her eyes, and after a while, she finally recognized the figure in front of her. Without knowing if Ryan was a friend or a foe, she grabbed a kitchen knife from behind her and pointed at him.

“Hang in there,” Ryan said. “I’m going to grab some potions for you. I will be back in an hour. No, wait! I can heal wounds!”

The very moment Ryan approached her, he saw the knife falling on the ground, and the woman began to mutter something. Ryan had to approach in order to hear what she was saying.

“Protect him... I no longer can...” The woman said. “The blood loss... the camp, north of...”

Ryan already knew that; she wouldn’t last long since he found a lot of her blood on the way. Still, he didn’t want to give up without trying. There is no way in hell a kid that young will become an orphan in front of him. Ryan won’t let that happen. He decided to carry the woman and the boy back to Shreveport. Even if he didn’t want to return, his wishes were meaningless in that kind of situation. Still, before he could close her wounds by using healing, she stopped breathing after muttering one last word. 

“Ar... thur...” The woman said and then her head fell to the side.

Somehow, even in that state, her body managed to hold Arthur tightly. Ryan dropped his head and let out a long sigh. It was the only thing he could do because he had no real right to feel bad about it, just like he didn’t have the right to feel bad about the death of the people who died while fighting the Sahuagin. They were fighting for survival, while Ryan was fighting to gain power.

“That is a strong mother for you...” Ryan said. “No... all mothers are strong.”

Arthur was sleeping soundly, even in that kind of situation. It was amazing that his mother did so much for him, protecting his life and even calming him down until the very last moment. That was good, and all, but Ryan now had to look after him. Not even adults will have a good time alongside him since Ryan wanted to challenge as many monsters as possible, so it was only natural that a newborn baby shouldn’t stay with him. Leaving Arthur behind was out of the question, so Ryan had to find someone to look after him.

“It is annoying, but I can’t think of anyone better than Mia,” Ryan said and then sighed. “It is her sole redeeming quality, but she truly loves kids from the bottom of her heart.”

Although that was the best option, Ryan recalled that Arthur's mother mentioned something else. About a camp North of there... and that raised several questions, if she knew about the camp, why didn't she go there? If she knew about it, was it because she had gotten close enough to see it. Or perhaps she had come from there;

"Maybe I can find your relatives there, Arthur," Ryan said while he was taking the newborn baby from his mother's arms. "Let's confirm if that is the case... If I don't find anyone reliable there, you will have to deal with Mia."

As soon as Ryan took Arthur on his left arm, the kid began to cry. No... the cry was an understatement. Arthur began to let out the loudest screams that were coming from the deepest parts of his soul. He was crying as if he was being carried by the scariest looking creature out there.

"This won't be easy to you, nor for me," Ryan sighed when he felt the approach of some monsters.

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Ryan wasn't by any means, someone clumsy. Some dexterity was required to handle a bow, after all. Still, he was a man that lost a good part of his main arm. So, the hope that he would carry a baby steadily and use a crossbow with a single hand was a bit too much.

"Oh, well..." Ryan sighed. "At least it is easier to aim with magic."

Flame arrow reached a point where Ryan could easily kill velociraptors with a single shot, as long as he hit their head. Even in the darkness of the night, he exterminated the creatures. However, Arthur's cry didn't stop.

You obtained eight coins.

You obtained eight coins.

You obtained eight coins.

It didn't take long for new monsters to appear. If anything, Arthur had an excellent skill to lure the monsters. Although that was convenient for Ryan in some ways, he didn't want to let him cry for long. He was probably scared, after all. If that was the case, Ryan might be able to calm him down, but if he was hungry...

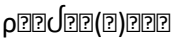
"Don't cry, Arthur. Don't cry," Ryan tried to whisper in his ears to calm him down while he was moving around, trying to emulate a baby crib. "Be good, be good, and I will give you some tasty mana potions... I wonder if potions can substitute milk..."

Now that Ryan thought about it, he didn't feel hungry or thirsty after drinking the mana potions. He was getting hungry as well, but considering that he didn't eat anything since noon, it was highly probable that potions could work as a meal... at least for a while. However, even if that was enough for him, the same logic doesn't apply to a newborn baby.

Suddenly, Ryan had another idea. He recalled the feeling that he had when recovery healed his body and recovered his energy. Since recovery had increased, the feeling had grown weaker, but now had become more constant. In any case, feeling his energy been restored was quite relaxed. Arthur wasn't wounded, but he probably would feel relaxed if Ryan uses Heal on him.

"Let's give it a shot," Ryan said.

Although Ryan had to conserve his mana as much as possible since he couldn't use his crossbow, he didn't hesitate in doing that. Surprisingly enough, Arthur's cry decreased in volume quite fast, and after just five seconds, he was sleeping again.

"This should be enough for the time being," Ryan sighed. "... I will come later and give you a proper burial." 

Ryan couldn't help but wonder he could dig a grave with a single hand, but that was a problem for later. Before other monsters could come or worse, before Arthur wakes up, he had to find this camp on the North. The dungeon of the velociraptors was in that direction, so he won't lose anything by following that path.

Although Ryan was imagined that something like that would happen, he couldn't have imagined things could become so rough. He was just walking, but faster and faster, he was getting exhausted. The tension of having to protect such a frail life was something that he never experienced before. Ryan didn't know many people that had kids, so the chances of him having to carry a newborn baby in his arms never came. Thanks to his inexperience, he couldn't help but worry if he was doing things right. He had become a rough individual in the last few days, so much a worry was only natural.

Congratulations! The skill Alert has leveled up.

Alert Lv 2 → Lv 3

Effect: Increases the effective range of your hearing outside battles by one meter per level in order to avoid ambushes.

You obtained 01 status point.

Congratulations! The skills Nocturnal Eyes has leveled up.

Nocturnal Eyes Lv 2 → Lv 3

Effect: Increases your eyesight in dark places and at night by one percent per level.

You obtained 01 status point.

Although that task had been difficult, Ryan had the chance to put some other skills to good use. That was fine, and all, but such thoughts quickly disappeared from his mind. After walking for one hour, he noticed that the area ahead was pretty bright. As far as Ryan knew, there was no community in that area, so it became clear that he found the camp. However, there was a problem... Ryan could see a bright area in front of him, but there was another a few hundred meters west of there.

“The hell is going on here...” Ryan frowned. “Maybe I should use Heal on Arthur again, just in case. That will make him relax more, and that will decrease the chances of him waking up. I can't let myself be discovered before I see what is going on here.”

Ryan had to be fast because that strategy could only work for so long. His mother apparently fed him even while she was wounding, but eventually, Arthur would get hungry, and his cry wouldn't stop unless Ryan finds some milk. After approaching slowly, Ryan saw a few tents up ahead and some bonfires too. There were some guards as well... but all of them were only guarding the same direction... the direction where Ryan found the other bright area.

“This is definitely suspicious...” Ryan muttered.

It was beyond stupid to guard a single direction when velociraptors were around, but now that Ryan thought about it, he hadn't seen a single monster in quite a while. Although he was supposed to have approached the dungeon, their numbers decreased... something smelled really fishy there.