

Overgeared 671

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"...58 gold each."

The 'training scarecrows' that could be purchased and installed from the 'Facilities' menu was quite expensive as it was a military equipment that could be used semi-permanently. But according to the report, 219 scarecrows disappeared without a trace. Why? They were smashed by none other than Grid.

'Why did he destroy the sinless and expensive scarecrows? ...Wait, didn't Grid say he would make a sword out of Belial's Horn?'

Shake shake.

Lauel shook as he started worrying about Grid.

'Surely he didn't fail to make an item?'

How stressed would Grid have to be to destroy national facilities?

'He would be upset if the weapon made of Belial's Horn has an unsatisfying finish.'

It was right after Grid met the powerhouse called Agnus. He would already be on edge so how much pain would Grid have suffered failing to produce a weapon?

'This... I have to comfort him.'

As a friend and colleague, Lauel was worried about Grid and rose from his seat. He ignored the stacks of paper piled up like a mountain and tried to send a whisper to Grid.

"Hi, hisashiburi." (Long time no see in Japanese)

At that moment, the door opened without permission and Pope Damian entered. He had the beaming expression that was his 'I'm dating Isabel' face.

"Why has Your Holiness come to see me? Aren't you busy preparing for the Vatican's festival?"

Lauel liked Damian a lot. It was because there was good communication between them.

"Yare yare... Is Lauel, the brain of Overgeared, busy? I came to see if the Rebecca temples are operating well."

As the pope, Damian built a total of three Rebecca temples in Reinhardt. There were 50 priests and 100 paladins in each one. But as the saying went, priests were precious. Since it was virtually impossible to deploy a large number of NPC priests, Damian gave quests to the player priests and led them to stay in the Overgeared Kingdom. As a result, a large number of priests were stationed in each temple. But were they working for the kingdom properly? Damian was honestly sorry.

"Not long ago, I saw that Grid was lacking priests when fighting Immortal. Did the Saharan Empire tempt away all the priests?"

Lauel smiled at the worried Damian.

"No. The priests are still staying in the Overgeared Kingdom. The reason Grid didn't bring priests with him was because he felt he had a lot of room. He hadn't expected Agnus' emergence."

"Is that so? I was worried about the recent rumor that the empire is trying to access our priests in the Overgeared Kingdom. Fortunately, it was just a rumor."

"..."

It wasn't nonsense. The Saharan Empire was trying to intimidate the Overgeared Kingdom and were jockeying to take the Rebecca priests.

'Thanks to this, Faker is really busy.'

The shadow behind the Overgeared Kingdom. Faker was always watching the Rebecca priests. He blocked the empire's spies before they could contact the priests. Lael felt sorry for Faker, who didn't have time to do his individual work. But Faker had good news recently.

"My level is going up quickly while hunting the enemy spies. It's better than monster hunting."

It wasn't false. Faker's level was rising faster than the Overgeared members at the hunting grounds. The Saharan Empire was helping Faker.

'Furthermore, Kasim seems interested in Faker.'

Kasim was King of the Shadows and a disciple of Lantier. He was a named NPC on the same rank as Piaro and Asmophel. It was extremely good news that he was interested in Faker. Maybe Faker would receive a hidden quest and learn Lantier's skills.

'...Faker might become strong enough to compete with Grid.'

Faker rarely made public appearances, unlike the other Overgeared members. The number of times he participated in various events and battles was smaller than the other Overgeared members. It wasn't because Faker was weak, but because he acted secretly. Faker had as much talent as Jishuka, as much passion as Regas, and as much reasoning ability as Pon. His potential for development was unlimited.

'Due to the nature of his class, there's little time for personal activities.'

If he grew while hunting enemy spies and received Lantier's teachings...

"...Sir? Lael?"

"Ah, I'm sorry."

Lael was locked in thought and became startled at Damian's voice. Damian felt sorry for Lael.

"Aren't you doing most work alone these days? Then your hair loss will become worse. Shouldn't you obtain more manpower?"

"Haha, it's okay. Since then, I have greatly increased the number of people involved in administrative affairs. I was thinking about something else."

As with any other country, the Overgeared Kingdom was zealous in seeking manpower. They often held trials to recruit NPCs and players talented in each field. Furthermore, the growth rate of the NPCs taught

by Sage Sticks was so high that the workforce of the Overgeared Kingdom was rapidly increasing. Lael's workload had declined from what it was a few months ago. However, he still had a murderous schedule.

"Then I'm glad... By the way, where were you planning to go?"

"Ah, I was going to see Grid. His Majesty seems to be in pain after failing to make an item."

"W-What? Grid failed to make an item?"

Damian had an expression like he lost his country.

"Unbelievable! The legendary blacksmith Grid failed to make an item!"

"..."

Grid was the person who saved Isabel with just his blacksmithing techniques. Damian's experience with Grid's blacksmithing techniques was thousands, tens of thousands of times greater than anyone else. But Grid had failed to make an item. The impact that Damian received was very large. Vantner, who was passing by in the hallway, heard his scream and rushed in.

"What? Grid failed in making an item?!"

Vantner's voice was as loud as a train horn. He was like Orator Huroi as he easily attracted people's attention.

"Is it true that God Grid failed to make an item?"

"Grid made a normal weapon?"

"No, he actually failed in making an item! The materials were destroyed!"

"Crazy...! Has the level of Grid's blacksmithing skill fallen?"

"Will Grid be deprived of his legendary blacksmith status?"

The rumors became exaggerated! Rumors spread that Grid would be deprived of his qualification as a legendary blacksmith and plunged the Overgeared Guild into chaos.

"Is it a penalty from when he was forced to assimilate in the fight against Agnus?"

"Now Grid is a legendary magician instead of a legendary blacksmith?"

"Unbelievable... The Overgeared King isn't a blacksmith but a magician... Then is he no longer the Overgeared King?"

"Do we have to change his name to the Magic King...?"

"How big is Grid's heartache...?!!"

This misunderstood Overgeared members started searching all over Reinhardt. It was to find Grid who was hiding alone somewhere. Damian was with them. Then.

"I found him!"

An Overgeared member was able to find Grid at the training ground. Grid had just destroyed hundreds of scarecrows and was afraid of Lael's nagging.

"Look at that dead expression!"

"The rumors were true..."

"G-Grid, are you okay?"

"...?"

What was with all the fuss? Grid wondered about the violently worried Overgeared members. Then Damian ran up to Grid.

"Grid! Don't be saddened by the fact that you failed to make an item!"

"...?"

"There are also times when monkeys fall from trees! No matter how skilled Grid is, you can't always be good! Isn't it just today? Even if you failed to make an item, you can make the next item well!"

"...What are you saying?"

Grid didn't understand why people were saying that he failed to make an item. Damian looked at the frowning Grid and hit his chest.

"Hit me!"

"...??"

"Didn't you fight me in the National Competition? I am very sturdy! I won't die! Hit me until your broken heart is soothed! Relieve your stress!"

The tankers of the Overgeared Guild, Toban and Vantner also stepped forward.

"Hit us! Do it heartily!"

"Release the stress that must've accumulated since your fight with Agnus! Now come!"

"...Ohu."

Grid still wanted to experiment with the damage. He wanted to enjoy the power of the sword that broke all the scarecrows so easily. Then the punching bag... No, Grid happily complied with his friends.

"Okay, apply for a duel. Your experience won't drop even if you die."

"What is death?"

"We are tankers."

"No Grid. Did you forget how strong I was at the National Competition? I am several times more durable than I was at that time. Just freely vent. I can endure it."

"You won't regret it?"

Grid smiled and wielded the Enlightenment Sword that was attached to the Sword Ghost. The target was Damian. At that moment.

Puaaaaaaaah!

Black flames exploded from the sword that collided with Damian...

"T-Time! Stop!"

Damian hurriedly shouted after checking the damage. He suggested.

"I-I will apply for a duel...!"

"What if I don't want to?"

Grid already had a taste. Grid was excited by the 'additional 50% damage to sacred beings' that boasted power beyond imagination.

"Owaaaaack! Yamete! Yamete kudasai!" (Stop! Please stop!)

Damian ran away from Grid, whose eyes were shining brightly like lanterns. He didn't have any confidence despite using his defensive buffs.

"..."

"...Did he make that sword just now?"

Vantner and Toban already shrank back. The day that praise for Grid spread around Satisfy's communities, the Overgeared members admired the power of Grid's weapon. It was the beginning of the full-scaled overgeared myth.

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"Irene!!"

"King Grid!"

"Hahahaha!"

"Hohohoho!"

"..."

An attack power of one billion, Meteor that could be instantly activated with no conditions, etc. It wasn't a dream item, but Grid succeeded in making the best item. He succeeded in this achievement three years after starting Satisfy. The joy that Grid felt was so big that it was difficult to gauge. It was natural that he would rejoice after reuniting with Irene.

"You've become even more beautiful since last I saw you!"

Grid smiled widely as he stroked Irene's soft hair. Grid's hand moved and revealed Irene's pretty little forehead. It was a very lovely forehead so Grid kissed it. He didn't care about the knights and maids watching. Irene's milky white skin turned red as she blushed.

“I’m happy. I missed your kind kisses.”

In fact, recently Irene had been very worried. Yura, Jishuka, Euphemina, Laella, etc. Grid always had beauties around him. But recently, the woman called Sua appeared and Irene realized that Grid couldn’t resist his desires and would have several concubines. Grid had the right as the king. But unlike Irene’s concerns, Grid didn’t take any concubines.

Of course, Irene knew. The reason Grid didn’t have concubines wasn’t because he only loved her, but because he was so busy.

‘Someday, he will have concubines.’

Irene felt pained. She was sad to think that Grid’s warm touch and breath would be shared with other women. But she didn’t intend to monopolize Grid. She knew she couldn’t monopolize him. A noble should have many children. For the future of the kingdom, Grid needed to have many offspring.

‘Furthermore.’

Grid was blessed by the gods. He was a presence who surpassed the flow of time. It had been five years since her marriage to Grid. Irene was in her mid-twenties, while Grid looked the same. Now they looked like the right age, but it would be different after 10 years.

‘I don’t belong with him.’

The people who matched with Grid were Yura and Jishuka. Irene’s eyes became red as she was reminded of the painful reality.

“Irene?”

Grid was surprised when the happily smiling Irene suddenly became tearful. He worried that he had made a mistake. Irene was deeply embarrassed.

“I’m too happy. I’m very glad to spend this time with Your Majesty.”

“...”

Grid was a person with no sense of others. He didn’t know that Yura and Jishuka harbored a crush on him. But he wasn’t a fool. Irene was a woman he shared his life and heart with. Grid got a glimpse of what she was thinking right now.

‘Irene... Khan... Lord...’

A finite life was a natural part of life. Satisfy’s time flowed differently from reality. Grid became depressed at the thought of some of his precious people disappearing someday. But Grid didn’t express it. He wanted Irene to be happy without feeling any sadness. He could be happy thanks to her, so he wanted to repay it with her own happiness.

“Irene!”

“Your Majesty... Hup...um.”

“...Hup.”

The knights and maidens guarding by the side of Grid and Irene blushed and turned their gazes to the wall. Grid's lips covered Irene's small lips in a deep kiss. The two people shared a hot kiss, as if they were the only ones who existed in the world.

[Overgeared King Grid and Queen Irene's love has set an example for the people.]

[The marriage and birth rates in the Overgeared Kingdom have increased by 20%.]

[The population growth rate of the Overgeared Kingdom has increased.]

"Huh? Isn't this a jackpot?"

Lauel was delighted back in his office.

"...Shit."

The bald Vantner was in tears. He felt sorrow at being solo since his mother's womb and Pon laughed at him.

"Amazing..."

Piaro felt admiration when he saw the traces of the battle in the training ground. His shock was greater since he personally trained Damian in the fields.

"Temporary farmer two... No, His Majesty has become strong enough to drive back His Holiness?"

Asmophel nodded at Piaro's question.

"That's right. He will become stronger than I am in the next two to three years."

"Haha..."

Asmophel was a person who didn't exaggerate. Then his words must be true. Piaro recalled the first time he met Grid. A dull child who couldn't properly handle his own abilities.

"But now he's overwhelming a genius."

This was the power of effort and the flow of time. A dark smile formed on Piaro's wrinkled face. Grid and Kraugel. He was proud and grateful that opening of the era of the new generation was coming closer. He thought that even the Saharan Empire pressuring the Overgeared Kingdom right now, wouldn't last forever.

'There's a problem.'

That person called Baal's Contractor. A sinister figure also appeared at the opening of the new era. He would surely interfere with Grid along the way, making Piaro feel uneasy.

'...My role is to punish him.'

Agnus' presence was so great that Piaro made an earnest vow.

Valhalla. It was a kingdom founded by God of War Ares and the interest in it was very hot. Numerous players hoped to move to Valhalla and join Ares' army. Just like the Overgeared Kingdom had the power of items, Valhalla had the chance to grow in a systematic organization called the army.

Players had a larger choice of kingdoms to choose from and the population of the Saharan Empire decreased accordingly. It wasn't at a catastrophic level, but the empire would receive definite losses in the long run. It was a very unpleasant phenomenon from the perspective of the imperial royal family.

"The Overgeared Kingdom hasn't self-destructed yet?"

The leaders of the Saharan Empire gathered in Titan, the capital. Most of them insisted that the new kingdoms of Overgeared and Valhalla should be punished and immediately destroyed. But it wasn't easy. The empire had been pursuing a policy of eradicating immigrants for decades and was in constant conflict.

The soldiers and people were tired. The empire of today had no room to invade both Overgeared and Valhalla. That's why they wanted the Overgeared Kingdom to destroy itself. They demanded a high tribute from the Overgeared Kingdom, forcing the kingdom to naturally walk down the path of defeat. However, the Overgeared Kingdom was surprisingly resilient.

"It's really strange. How can they continue to produce battle gear and feed the people when there is no money?"

"Are they cheating us with the taxes and holding back some money?"

"No. We are thoroughly monitoring them and it's impossible."

"Then how do you explain the situation now? The situation can't be explained unless they have infinitely proliferating minerals and food."

"Infinitely proliferating minerals and food... That's a funny joke."

"It's likely that other kingdoms are helping the Overgeared Kingdom. I think it will be good to block all of the Overgeared Kingdom's diplomacy avenues."

"What's the justification? It would be more comfortable to cause a war."

"Valhalla is the problem. Valhalla was only established due to the help of the Overgeared King. The Overgeared Kingdom doesn't have any allies apart from Valhalla. It will be easy if we isolate the Overgeared Kingdom from Valhalla."

"Isn't it simple if we invade both Overgeared and Valhalla at the same time?"

"Where can we spare the army? It's impossible for the empire to make a large-scale military move at this time due to the immigrants."

"As the war continues, the tribes are experiencing a famine. It's impossible to receive aid from their tributaries for war money and they will have to squeeze the blood of their own people, causing an internal problem. They can't cause a war for the next few years."

"The ambassador coming to the great Saharan Empire to discuss poverty... This is due to the persistence of those scum."

"First of all, the immigrants need to be eliminated. Then Overgeared and Valhalla are next."

This confusion was caused by the Overgeared Kingdom still surviving despite being supposed to perish within a few months. Why wasn't the Overgeared Kingdom suffering from a famine? It was difficult for the empire to understand.

"This quarter also has a good harvest. Congratulations, Your Majesty."

"This is all thanks to Piaro."

The agriculture of the Overgeared Kingdom was phenomenal. Spring, summer, autumn, and winter, every season had a good harvest. It was thanks to the legendary farmer Piaro's passive skill. Piaro's existence itself was fraudulent.

"I am lucky that despite having most of my possessions taken away by the empire, neither my people or my soldiers are going hungry."

Rabbit shook his head at the relieved Grid.

"It's only peaceful on the surface. The state of the Overgeared Kingdom is actually very dangerous. There is no money to invest in different fields and development isn't happening. In the end, we will die out."

"In the end, we have to get away from paying a tribute to the empire?"

"Of course."

Rabbit nodded. But he didn't offer any good solutions. Valhalla's presence might've prevented the empire's invasion, but the Overgeared Kingdom couldn't declare their freedom from the empire. There was no room to stop the empire from coming.

"Hmmm..."

The moment Grid was immersed in his thoughts.

-Overgeared King, what are you doing?

A whisper came from Valhalla King Ares.

-What happened?

They might become enemies one day but right now, Ares was the most dependable ally for Grid. Ares explained after hearing Grid's question.

-The empire sent an envoy. They told me to offer a tribute to the empire as a token of loyalty.

-Indeed, Valhalla as well...

Grid thought that Ares naturally accepted the demands of the empire. However, Ares was a formidable man like Lael had said.

-I told him to get lost.

-Eh?

-How can I pledge allegiance to them when they sent Agnus to hinder me? Those damn scum, I'll pop them like popcorn and drink them like Coke.

-...Aren't you giving the empire a chance to invade?

-They won't invade right away. They are afraid of the Overgeared Kingdom. Well, once they handle some of the ethnic tribe immigrants, they will move onto Valhalla.

-What will you do?

-Let's see... Overgeared King, you should take care of me.

-You want me to send reinforcements?

-No, it's enough to send me items.

-...?

-I would like to arm my soldiers with your items. Of course, I will purchase them at a fair price and I won't forget this grace for the rest of my life.

Ares believed that if the most powerful army was equipped with the strongest items, there would be no need to fear the empire's invasion. But Grid still found it difficult to trust Ares. He couldn't rule out the possibility of the overgeared Ares Army becoming enemies. Ares seemed to read his mind and added.

-As a reference, I really like you. I don't want to be your enemy.

-...Come to think of it, you are an uncle.

-Huh?

-No, nothing. I need to discuss this with Lael.

Why was he only loved by men? Grid was seriously worried as he told Ares he would think about it. Then he had a consultation with Lael. Lael spoke honestly.

"If Ares made this proposal yesterday, I would've refused. But..."

"But?"

"It is different from the past. Accept Ares' demands. Sell items and make money."

"Why?"

"So what if Ares tries to hit you in the back of the head? Use the spark of darkness sealed in the burning blade. Kuk! Kukukuk!"

"..."

Lauel declared that Grid's power was now at a national level.

"Leave the trade with Valhalla to me and leave now. Please conquer the Behen Archipelago and come back."

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"Umm... The Behen Archipelago."

Grid made a reluctant expression and judged that it was too premature. Lauel gave a different opinion, however.

"Didn't you say that the guardian of the 61st island is the legendary assassin Lantier?"

"To be precise, it is Lantier who has become a death knight that has also been armed with Pagma's items!"

"He must be strong. But Your Majesty, haven't you already set up a plan to deal with Lantier? You created an armor that can nullify Lantier's attack power."

Grid had many pieces of armor: 'Triple Layers,' the piece of armor that specialized in physical resistance, 'Lantier's Cloak,' the 'Horned Helmet,' and the 'Large Gloves.' Grid nodded.

"I don't think you would speak empty flattery... Certainly, I won't die as quickly as I did before. But what about my weapon?"

Grid was concerned about his weapon.

"This time, I made the Enlightenment Sword, a demonic sword—the best tool to use against divine beings, but not the most powerful one against the undead."

Death Knight Lantier was strictly classified as a monster with dark properties. The additional 30% dark damage from the Enlightenment Sword would work as a heal for him. Lantier's evasion rate was also exceptional, so Grid wondered if he could actually dispose of the named boss monster.

"Hrmm... Are you saying you need to make a holy sword first?"

"That would be good."

"It makes sense. It is great to prepare without needing to worry about the death penalty... Then do you have enough material to use for a holy sword?"

"Mithril is easily available on the market."

"Mithril!" shouted Lauel as he suddenly rose from his seat. Grid was surprised by the unexpectedly severe response.

"W-What? Why are you so excited?"

"I'm not excited right now! This is a holy sword, a holy sword! Yet you are planning to make it out of mithril?!"

"..."

Mithril was powerful against the undead and was classified as an advanced mineral. That was just a perception common to ordinary players, however.

"Isn't the demonic sword made of Belial's Horn? If you're planning to make a holy sword, shouldn't its material be on the same level as that of the demonic sword?"

"...Come to think of it..."

The Blade Born from Enlightenment and Strong Desires was a myth rated weapon. Assuming he was dealing with the undead, the Enlightenment Blade would be more powerful than a legendary mithril weapon.

"Right. It doesn't make sense to use ordinary materials for my weapon."

"I'm glad you understood my words properly."

In the future, all of Grid's dedicated weapons should aspire to be 'at least' the level of the Enlightenment Sword. It was significant.

Grid realized it.

'...Then where can I find the materials for a holy sword?'

Even adamantium couldn't compare to Belial's Horn. In order to obtain sacred materials on the same grade as Belial's Horn...

'Should I kill an angel?'

For what reason?

'No, can I even meet an angel?'

Grid's head started to become cluttered.

"Grid?"

Sage Sticks came to visit. He was called by Lael.

"Are you going to the Behen Archipelago?"

Sticks' desire was for the Behen Archipelago to be purified. He hoped that the Behen Archipelago would re-establish itself as the Hall of Fame, and was very glad that Grid would challenge the Behen Archipelago again. Grid saw his bright expression and scratched his cheek.

"No, I think it should be postponed."

Grid thought Sticks would understand, as he knew exactly how powerful the guardians for the islands in the 60s were. Sticks reaction wasn't as expected, however,

"Why do you want to postpone it?"

"Why? I'm still weak."

"Huh?"

“...”

A strange response! Grid was confused.

"What's with this reaction? Sticks, didn't you see Lantier's strength? I wasn't able to touch him before."

"That is an old story. A death knight who loses its owner doesn't grow. Then what about you? You have all types of new armor and weapons, making you incomparably stronger than before. You can defeat Lantier now."

“...”

Lael and Sticks. Once the smart people repeatedly spoke about Lantier like he was easy, Grid felt like a fool.

'Maybe I am underestimating myself?'

That's right. Grid had grown by leaps and bounds since he had first challenged the Behen Archipelago. His items had been strengthened a few times, and both his character level and skill level had steadily increased. He had even earned legendary titles such as 'Savior of the World' and 'First King.' However, Grid wasn't able to think objectively because the shock of Lantier in the past was too great.

"Even if I can defeat Lantier, the Behen Archipelago doesn't end at the 61st island. Doesn't it have 66 islands? I have to fight many legendary death knights in a row. Wouldn't it be safer to have a holy sword ready?"

"I see. You think that a holy sword is indispensable because a death knight is evil. But a death knight is an undead before it is evil, making it vulnerable to explosive attacks and the light attribute."

An undead's endurance was weak. Of course, in the case of high-level undead, their defense was also high. But defense and endurance were different concepts, however. While their defense might be high, a strong explosion would be able to separate and weaken the bones.

"I heard rumors that the sword you made has a strong explosion effect. You can easily defeat the undead with it."

“...”

There was no reason to delay any longer. Grid's scared mind was freed by Sticks' words.

"The conclusion is that the Behen Archipelago is easy?"

"...No, not that far..."

"Okay! Okay, let's go! Go! Right away!"

It was sad when thinking about it. He was the king, but he was forced to go on a business trip.

'I feel like a salaryman, not a king!'

Grid felt a complete sense of isolation for some reason and asked Lael before he left,

"Is it okay if I leave at this time? Won't it be dangerous if the empire strikes?"

Grid knew that the empire was in a situation that made it difficult to move troops. However, the empire had the Red Knights. If Lael carried out his plan to not offer a tribute to the empire this month, the empire was likely to threaten the Overgeared Kingdom with the Red Knights. Lael reassured Grid.

"I received news that a person who pretended to be the descendant of the Undefeated King has appeared in Lubana. Thus, the Red Knights have been dispatched on a large scale. It is one of the reasons why Ares was able to beat the imperial envoy. The empire can't do anything to us right now."

"The Undefeated King...?"

Grid was dimly aware of Undefeated King Madara. During the time of the 2nd National Competition, the commentators mentioned it while talking about Bubba's Undefeated King's Battle Gear Set.

"The king of Lubana, who never defeated the empire..."

Perhaps!

"Is Bubba the descendant of the Undefeated King?"

Bubba was someone whose status conditions 'always' applied. He couldn't be ignored if he had the power of the Undefeated King. Lael shook his head at the wary Grid.

"His identity is unknown. In addition, we aren't in a place to worry about them."

The appearance of the Undefeated King was helping both Overgeared and Valhalla. Their identity was unknown, and while they might be an enemy in the future, they were welcome right now. It was too early to be wary.

"We just need to do what we have to do."

The Behen Archipelago was the Hall of Fame that honoured the achievements of past legends and handed down legacies to the current legends. It could be considered an important base in the human world (middle world). Thus, it became the target of great demons.

The great demons, wary of the legends who could threaten them despite their status as trivial humans, invaded the Behen Archipelago to conquer it. Out of all this, Pagma came out, gaining a transcendent power through a contract with the 1st great demon, Baal. He transformed the Behen Archipelago and intercepted the great demons, consequently defeating them.

But the Behen Archipelago wasn't able to function properly in the aftermath. The Behen Archipelago was no longer the Hall of Fame, nor was it a place of succession after it was converted by Pagma. It became an impregnable fortress that existed only to hurt intruders. Sticks saw this as 'contaminated.'

"I can't deny Pagma's feat. If it weren't for Pagma, the middle world would've been a playground for demons right now, and neither of us would've existed. I respect Pagma and am grateful to him."

But.

"Pagma's choice resulted in the weakening of the middle world. The Behen Archipelago lost its function, and the memories of the feats and visions of the past legends were forgotten. The legends weren't able

to exert their full strength, except for those who pioneered a new legend on their own like Piaro. They are another matter.”

“People’? There is someone else who became a new legend besides Piaro?”

"I can't rule out the possibility. Somewhere else, a new human or elf might've become a legend in their field. Of course, it is very unlikely, but it's still possible."

“...Indeed.”

Satisfy was wide. Sticks only spoke about humans and elves, but there might be legends among other species such as dwarves or orcs.

‘No, a new legend is bound to emerge.’

It wouldn't just be the existing legends. The damn S.A Group would raise the difficulty level of the game and it was unknown what type of work they were doing. Sticks placed a hand on Grid's shoulder.

“Let's depart.”

Sticks had very big hopes for Grid. Grid was Pagma's Descendant so it seemed like his destiny was to cleanse the Behen Archipelago.

"Restore the Hall of Fame and become a legendary hero."

‘Legendary hero...’

It was like saying to be a hero of heroes.

‘It is similar to being a celebrity of celebrities?’

The moment Grid shook.

Paaaat!

His field of view blinked black. It was the Mass Teleport of Sticks after the coordinates of the Behen Archipelago were inputted.

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Corpse storage: an inventory exclusive to necromancers that could permanently store a total of 5 NPCs or monsters. AS such, necromancers had a habit of storing the body of a named NPC or raid boss monster that they had previously acquired in a quest or event.

They did this in order to gather excellent corpses and to use the best corpse among them as the material of a death knight. In other words, the corpse storage was for concepts such as a death knight ‘candidate’ collection. Agnus had one body in the corpse storage.

[Lantier's Remains]

Rating: Legendary

The remains of the 15th Lantier, who was revered as a legendary assassin.

"...I'd like to try this guy out, but it's just too hard to raise the dominance stat."

Agnus sought out the Behen Archipelago in order to find Pagma's legacy, which belonged to Baal's former contractor.

He had fought two days and nights against Lantier on the 61st island. Both his death knights and liches lost experience several times, and he even had to invoke the passives of the liches. In short, it was a tough battle, in which he struggled with stamina control. Agnus got a thrill just from remembering it. He was solely focused on the battle!

'A level 400 death knight using a legendary body...'

Moreover, Lantier was an assassin. His agility seemed made him seem like a living being, as compared to Agnus' death knights. Agnus was convinced that Lantier would be comparable to Lich Mumud.

'Once I raise my level and gain the required amount of dominance, I can use Lantier as if he were my very own arms and legs.'

He would challenge the 62nd island, which he had failed.

"...I will obtain all of the legendary death knights remaining on the islands."

Agnus realized it now. The fact that the legendary death knights on the Behen Archipelago were Pagma's legacy and that they were armed with his items.

'More.'

More and more strength.

'I will crush and break everything.'

There was no entertainment as good as slaughter and destruction. Now he could understand the feelings of the trash who used to plague him to death...

"Kuk!"

Agnus stumbled while lost in thought and shook his head. He felt a terrible headache when he realized his own mind had become distorted enough to understand the trash that destroyed his life and killed his beloved. It was a type of self-defense mechanism.

"Hah... Hah... Kik, kikik."

Agnus licked his sweat with his tongue and barely managed to laugh. He tried to ignore the past and the meaningless reality before shouting,

"Veradin! Veradin!"

"Did you call?"

The palace where Empress Marie and the Rose Knights resided. Agnus didn't care about Marie as he shouted, and Veradin was quickly summoned. Veradin hastily rushed over and Agnus declared,

"I am going to the Behen Archipelago right now."

“Huh?”

Veradin was upset. The death knight of the Demon Slayer Alex defended the 62nd island and Agnus couldn't beat him right now. Veradin couldn't help but feeling puzzled at the prospect of Agnus going to the Behen Archipelago without any preparations.

"You will fail if you challenge it again right now. Why are you doing such a pointless..."

Veradin fell silent in the middle of his question after seeing the tears in Agnus' bloodshot eyes.

“You...”

“I have to fight...! I must forget!”

“...”

That's right. Agnus wanted to forget the memories of the past and reality by concentrating on fighting against those who were strong. It was a very desperate wish. Veradin understood his heart, but was forced to stop it.

"I would rather you go to Empress Marie and receive a quest. It isn't the time to head to the Behen Archipelago yet. Right now, it's pointless to weaken yourself with repeated, meaningless defeats. Not only will this not help you, it will also eventually lead you away from your wish. Now, take a deep breath and regain your composure."

“...”

Veradin was a young man with a beautiful appearance, but his voice was as deep as a cave. There was a charisma in the low voice that gave the listeners intense confidence. Thanks to this, Agnus' mind gradually calmed down. Veradin noticed it and continued speaking.

“Don't be anxious. The Behen Archipelago will stay standing forever until you gain enough strength.”

The difficulty level of the Behen Archipelago was terrible. Even Kraugel couldn't clear the Behen Archipelago. Veradin was convinced of this based on his superior brain and Agnus agreed after regaining his composure.

“Kuk... Kukuk, yes. I will challenge the Behen Archipelago later. I will go to Marie. I hope she has prepared a fun quest this time too.”

"Why don't you tell Grid about Agnus' past?"

Faker asked. Faker thought that Grid deserved to know about Agnus, who would continue to be an enemy in the future. But Lauel gave a different opinion. He shared Agnus' past with all the leaders of Overgeared except Grid. The reason was simple.

“Grid isn't heartless.”

At first glance, he was selfish. But Grid drew a line at inflicting damage to others forever. Basically, it meant he was full of compassion.

What if he learned about Agnus' past?

"Rather than using that past as a weakness, it is more likely that Grid will sympathize. He will feel disturbed when dealing with the psychopath."

"..."

Faker didn't agree. He knew that Grid's compassion was limited to 'his people.' He had never seen Grid show mercy to an enemy.

Lauel smiled bitterly.

"Agnus' past overlaps with Grid's past. It means Grid will feel a sense of homogeneity and this might lead to sympathy."

Of course, the weight was different. The harassment that Agnus experienced was much greater than the harassment that Grid was subjected to. But it was equally painful. A person's pain couldn't be discussed.

"I just hope they don't become entangled."

Lauel spoke his wish while looking out the window. He was certain that Agnus was a poison to Grid. It was terrible that Agnus had such a past, but Lauel had no intention of defending how twisted he became. Faker watched him quietly in the darkness before asking.

"Why does Veradin serve Agnus?"

Veradin had been famous since his rookie days. It was enough to form double pillars with Lauel and people's evaluation of him was still the best. Faker couldn't understand why such a person would serve Agnus. Lauel came up with a shocking interpretation.

"Veradin isn't serving Agnus. He's observing Agnus as an interesting experiment."

"...Experiment?"

"Veradin is a psychologist."

"..."

In the end, Agnus was still alone in the world. Lauel thought he was a poor person.

[You have entered the 60th island.]

The Behen Archipelago. Grid appeared at the last save point before the 61st island. By his side was the beautiful elf Sticks, although he was a male.

"I suddenly thought of something. Will Muller's death knight be the guardian of the 66th island?"

The legend that even Braham recognized as the strongest. Grid thought it would be impossible to conquer the Behen Archipelago if he had to face Muller. Sticks reassured him.

"Pagma can't make Muller a death knight, even if contracted with Baal. Muller was a noble soul."

"...He truly is the best, with no rivals."

Did this mean he survived after dying? Then Grid heard a familiar voice.

"Sticks! Sticks! Sticks!!"

It was the voice of the little fairy Bini, who guided the challengers of the Behen Archipelago in Sticks' absence. What was so urgent? This little fellow was making a fuss as he flew around Grid and Sticks.

"Pant pant."

Bini seemed to have something to say but he consumed a lot of his stamina from flying in a hurry. He couldn't speak for a long time before he was gasping for breath.

'This is why exercise is important.'

Tonight, he would do 200 push ups and 100 squats and pull-ups before sleeping! Grid started reconsidering the workout plan he had been following for a few years.

"The 61st island...! The 61st island was cleared!"

"What?"

Both Grid and Sticks were surprised. Death Knight Lantier. The monster whose swiftness and stealth reached the extremes was defeated?

'Who?'

Grid had secured the first legendary class and had been growing continuously since then. At this moment, he fell behind again. The impact on Grid was beyond imagination. He resented his lowly talent that made him fall behind, despite having a legendary class. As Grid was feeling frustrated, the small fairy spoke the name of a completely unexpected person.

"Agnus...! He said he was called Agnus! He was a completely crazy person!"

"Agnus?"

The person who made Grid almost taste defeat in front of the whole world was standing before him again? Grid's blood became heated. His eyes were burning like when he faced Kraugel at the National Competition.

"..."

The usual Grid lost his calmness every time he became heated up, just like any other person. But.

"What about the 62nd island? Did he also clear the 62nd island?"

Grid was different from ordinary people. When he thought about someone he recognized as a 'competitor,' all the passion gave him a cool head.

"He didn't capture the 62nd island. He died from a few gunshots."

"Gun? The 62nd island is guarded by the former Demon Slayer?"

It meant Grid had to fight with Blackening sealed. But he had to take that penalty.

'I have to attack the 66th island. I must break through the 62nd island without Blackening.'

Agnus had cleared the 61st island despite not yet evolving to a legendary class. Grid had started to peek at the myths beyond the legends so he couldn't be worse than Agnus.

"I will go to the 62nd island."

Grid said while attaching the Enlightenment Blade onto Sword Ghost.

"Good luck."

Sticks smiled gently and cheered him on. On the other hand, Bini was turning blue.

"H-H-How can you challenge the 62nd island that the crazy human failed to do? You also didn't break through the 61st island!"

"That was a long time ago."

Supaak!

Grid stepped towards the gate that was created in front of him. Bini didn't know what to do as Grid's appearance disappeared.

"S-Sticks. Shouldn't you say something? That person is going to die again!"

"No."

"...?"

"He will purify the Behen Archipelago and win the title of Hero King."

Sticks said significantly while pulling out a crystal ball. Bini's eyes widened the moment he found Grid's appearance.

Kuwaaaaaang!

Black flames blew towards Death Knight Alex!

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[You have entered the 61st island.]

[The island is already purified.]

Immediately after stepping foot through the gate. Grid warped to the 61st island and faced the expected situation.

'Indeed, the bosses of the 60th islands don't regenerate.'

It was easy to infer since Bini said that the 61st island had been cleared. In the first place, this was the end content of the Behen Archipelago. For the development of the story, the bosses of the 60th islands had to be finite. If the bosses infinitely regenerated then the story of the Behen Archipelago wouldn't come to a conclusion.

'This means that the person who eats the islands in the 60's first...'

Preemption was important. From Grid's viewpoint, he missed out on Lantier.

'It's likely that Agnus obtained Lantier's cloak and dagger...'

It would be lucky if he only obtained items. Considering Agnus' personality, there was the possibility of him securing Death Knight Lantier.

'No, isn't that too much of a leap? If he got Death Knight Lantier, wouldn't he have used in when he fought me in the Belto Kingdom?'

The landscape that unfolded in front of the deep in thought Grid was very beautiful. A cool breeze blew through the wide meadows and spread dandelion seeds. The horizon beyond the meadows looked like a jewel. It was an unbelievably spectacular sight compared to the desolate wasteland Grid had come to before.

Step, step.

Grid hastened his pace. He didn't have enough free time to watch the scenery. Someone else would be challenging the Behen Archipelago at this moment. He was nervous at the thought of them possible reaching the 60th islands.

'The remaining bosses are all mine.'

Grid's greed was burning! He moved to the gate of the 62nd island without any hesitation. At the same time.

[You have entered the 62nd island.]

Tang!Tang tang!

The moment the scenery changed. The moment Grid's darkened vision was restored and he faced the notification windows, four jade light bullets flew towards him. It was the surprise attack of the guardian of the 62nd island, Demon Slayer Alex. In fact, Agnus encountered this surprise attack as soon as he entered the 62nd island and proceeded to fight in adverse circumstances. Most players, not just Agnus, would've allowed the surprise attack.

Alex's attack speed was 0.25. It meant he could fire four bullets per second, meaning he could attack four times per second. It was impossible for an ordinary player to cope with Alex's surprise attack, as a gun had the highest accuracy of all weapons.

But who was Grid? He was the peak of the overgeared people. Grid was different.

Tatatatang!

The battle ready Grid had summoned the God Hands and their effect was fraudulent. The God Hands moved around Grid and protected him from Alex's bullets.

"You have no manners."

Grid accused Alex after calming down his surprised heart and rushing forward. Alex used guns, so Grid's top priority was to narrow the distance. It was a textbook judgment. It was too obvious.

Clink!

Death knight. Their reasoning abilities might be lost, but their fighting skills in the past were fully preserved. Alex was skillful. As soon as Grid narrowed the distance, he converted the magic engineering gun into sword form and responded to the attack.

Chaeeeeeng!

"...!"

Grid swung the Enlightenment Blade attached to Sword Ghost. He was surprised while defending against Alex's counterattack.

'Why is his speed so fast?'

Grid thought it was a characteristic of the weapon or a skill when Alex fired four shots in a row. But Alex managed to swing his sword four times a second. It was really a basic attack. There were no precursors to using a buff or skills.

'Human' players and NPCs had a basic attack speed of 1 (1 per second. Of course, this figure might increase depending on the type of weapon used). Given that the attack rest was estimated to be 0.25, Alex' agility must be at least 8,000.

'No, it's impossible.'

Based on Yura, a Demon Slayer's core stats were strength and intelligence. She also needed to invest a few points into stamina for survival. The Demon Slayer class didn't have enough room to invest points in agility.

'Is the lack of agility covered by the gun?'

Due to the nature of the weapon, guns had a lot of options that would increase the attack speed. However, it was a different story for a sword. It was highly probably that the attack speed option wasn't available when the magic engineering gun was in sword mode.

Alex must have a passive or attribute that allowed him to swing a sword four times per second.

'Like assassins or swordsmen, does a Demon Slayer have a passive that increases their attack speed?'

For example, an assassin's attack speed was increased due to the class characteristics as well as a passive skill. On top of that, the assassin steadily increased their agility stat so they had the fastest attack speed among all classes. As a simple example, Faker hit an average of two times per second and occasionally three times.

'Instead, his attack power is weak!'

Jeeeong!

It wasn't just Faker. Most assassins had to cover their lack of damage from their low strength stat with active skills. Once an active skill was used, the assassin's attack power was extremely high. But Alex?

Jjejeong!

Jjeejeeong!

Every basic strike that he aimed at Grid was as powerful as an assassin. Alex combined the attack speed of an assassin and the attack power of a swordsman!

'Che!'

Fortunately, Alex's attack power wasn't high enough to stiffen the God Hands. Grid was able to hold on thanks to the God Hands and counterattacked from time to time. But.

Kuaaaaang!

Not surprisingly, Alex didn't just use basic attacks. The moment he aimed four bullets at Grid, the unique jade light of a Demon Slayer also covered Grid in an explosion. It was an explosion that only occurred when Grid grasped the chance for a counterattack.

'His control is good...'

Grid became irritated as he started accumulating damage with every explosion. He desperately felt how powerful Alex was. It wasn't clear how strong Alex must've been when he was alive.

Chaeng!

Chaeeeeeng!

But there was still hope, as Grid didn't allow any critical attacks. He had the four God Hands. They blocked most of the four attacks that Alex unleashed in one second. Grid once again felt awe at the God Hands.

'This game is truly about items.'

An opportunity came in the midst of the crisis. The God Hands were steadily building up experience while blocking Alex's strikes. Now the experience of the God Hands was at 70%. If he fought for a whole month with Alex, the rating of the God Hands would rise to legendary. But.

"I will be behind if I wait a month...! Pagma's Swordsmanship!"

Grid ignored Alex's intermittent explosions and started a sword dance.

Hwaruruk!

Flames sparked from the Enlightenment Blade and followed Grid's movements. It looked like a red dragon's black tongue.

"Link!"

Four basic attacks per second?

This was the strongest skill that attacked 20 times per second!

Jjang!Jjeejeeong!

Pit!

Pipipipit!

“...!”

The alert Alex was ready to defend, but it was meaningless. Alex could only defend against Grid’s first four strikes. Then he was hit by a Mjolnir wielded by a God Hand and his body was bombarded by sword strikes. The original Link had the drawback of not having enough attack power to threaten boss monsters.

[You have dealt 240,555 damage to the target!]

[You have dealt 235,900...]

...

...

[The option effect of the Sword Born from Enlightenment and Strong Desires has added 5,000 fire damage!]

[The option effect of the Sword Born from Enlightenment and Strong Desires has added 5,000 fire...]

...

...

[The option effect ‘Black Flames’ has activated from the Sword Born from Enlightenment and Strong Desires!]

[You have dealt 3,673,800 damage to the target.]

[The option effect ‘Black Flames’ has activated from the Sword Born from Enlightenment and Strong Desires...]

[You have dealt 4,392,220 damage to the target.]

[The option effect ‘Black Flames’ ...]

[Critical!]

[You have dealt 9,215,090 damage to the target.]

Kwa kwa kwa kwang!

Kwa kwa kwa kwang!

The chance of activating the black flames with every attack was demonstrated when combined with this skill. The black flames that constantly exploded was enough to cover the lacking attack power of Link, making it worthy of the strongest attack skill Pinnacle Kill.

“...Amazing.”

When Grid first used Failure, the overwhelming attack power of the Holy Light Gloves combined with Kill was still intact in his mind. The thrill when he used Failure to defeat the field boss was enormous. At this moment, that thrill completely disappeared from Grid's mind. Grid was able to experience a new level with the Enlightenment Sword that Failure couldn't give him!

Duk.

Alex suffered continuous explosive damage. He lost one third of his health and his left arm bone fell off. It was a scene proving that the undead was vulnerable to explosions. Now Alex had one hand.

"..."

Silence filled the desolate 62nd island. The only speaker, Grid, had shut up. He was in a trance as he admired the power of Link and the Enlightenment Blade.

'...Is this real?'

He felt invincible! He felt like he could also win against Piaro... No, this was an illusion.

Clink!

Did Alex feel a sense of crisis after losing one arm? While Grid was lost in thought for a moment, Alex transformed the sword back into a gun.

Tang!

Tatatatang!

Alex fired four bullets every time he stepped back. He occasionally used the Continuous Fire skill and the God Hands couldn't keep up with the bullets. A heavy rain of bullets broke through the God Hands' defence and wounded Grid's body.

"Kuk!"

Grid regained his mind as he became bloody in an instant. He realized that it wasn't the time for admiration. This was the Behen Archipelago. It was an instant dungeon that cause Grid to complain about the difficulty several months ago. Grid reminded himself that it wasn't the time to be thinking about items. He took out the Ideal Dagger, used Quick Movements and caught up with Alex.

[You have suffered 5,200 damage.]

[You have suffered 4,880 damage.]

[You have suffered 5,150...]

...

...

Despite giving up the Holy Light Gloves and arming himself with Triple Layers, Alex's bullets were powerful. He continued to fire at the approaching Grid and considerable damage accumulated.

Grid's health gauge, which was still less than 100,000, quickly disappeared as he narrowed the distance to Alex. Grid's goal was to defeat Alex before the immortal passive kicked in. He thought it was possible with the attack power of the Enlightenment Sword.

But Alex didn't repeat the same mistake. After realizing that Grid's approach could threaten him, he didn't let Grid near.

Peng!

Pepepepeng!

[You have suffered 15,900 damage.]

"Kuaaaaak!"

Suddenly? No, was it planted in advance? Grid was rushing towards Alex, only to step on a mine and was swept up in an explosion. The force of the explosion was so big that Grid's body flew back one metre. It was a mine that contained the unique magic power of a Demon Slayer. Despite Grid wearing Triple Layers, the mine contained so much attack power that it would've been deadly if he used Blackening.

"Shit..."

The fallen Grid quickly got up.

Clink!

Alex switched his magic engineering gun from a pistol to a sniper rifle. It was the sniper mode that Yura couldn't use yet.

Peeeeeeong!

An explosion occurred right when Alex was aiming at Grid. It was from Alex's head!

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Peeeeeeong!

"....!"

A sudden explosion! Alex shook while aiming the sniper gun at Grid. Grid had a wide smile on his face.

"Heh, how about this?"

This might not be his field of confidence, but Grid took an attitude of trying to learn no matter the circumstances. He even studied the domestic affairs that were handled by Lael. It was a habit resulting from the serious obsession of not going back to being a loser. Of course, his learning ability was slow due to his innately low intelligence. However, this wasn't a big problem. No matter how stupid, he would improve a little bit if he kept trying.

A desire to be better than he was! Grid was filled with hot aspirations during his battle with Agnus. Then he developed.

Jiing.

Pepepeng!

There was no guarantee of victory in a confrontation with the strong. He had to induce constant variables and the skill most suitable to cause a variable during his battle with Agnus was the Alarm spell. Thanks to this, Grid was conscious of the Alarm spell since the beginning of the fight with Alex.

He predicted that Alex would once again open the distance after becoming alert to the powerful attack of Link and arranged the Alarm spell in Alex's predicted movement path. Of course, Grid wasn't smart and couldn't predict the exact path. As a result, he wasted a lot of mana placing magic over a wide range.

'I only have enough mana to use the ultimate skills two more times... Eh?'

Just like all rankers, Grid's flow of consciousness sped up during a battle. The proper eruption of adrenaline had a positive effect. Thus, Grid's judgment was quick.

"Pagma's Swordsmanship!"

Alex hadn't let go of the sniper position despite Alarm being triggered and Magic Missile being fired.

Kuwaaaaang!

Alex fired the sniper rifle at Grid.

"Revolve."

Grid immediately used his strongest counterattack skill that could 'deflect all types of attacks.' But it was useless. The sniper mode of the magical engineering gun had the option of 'make sure to hit the target' in exchange for taking a significant amount of time to aim. This was the same concept as reality. It wasn't a question of speed. A human's body was already pierced with a bullet by the time they heard the gun being fired.

It was the same with Grid. He couldn't expect the protection of the God Hands right now.

Peeng!

"...!"

The bullet from the sniper rifle left a jade afterglow as it pierced between Grid's brow and the sound of a watermelon bursting was heard. In a sense, his head had burst. The psychological fear that Grid felt was enormous.

[You have died!]

[A legend doesn't die easily. You can resist all attacks for 5 seconds with a minimum of health.]

"Ah...!"

Grid's body instantly became soaked with sweat. It wasn't an exaggeration when he said he was like a drowning rat. Didn't he feel his head bursting like a watermelon? Grid's first action was to touch his head with trembling hands. He was worried that he might be suffering from a body that lost its head. Fortunately, Grid's head was fine. The head drilled in his forehead had also been restored. There were

some cases of monsters or NPCs' heads being cut off, but even the S.A. Group avoided players having their heads burst.

"Pant... Pant..."

Grid's breathing became rough from the terrible experience while fear also rose in him. Normally, he would've acted with all his strength during the five seconds of immortality. But he already wasted two seconds recovering his soul. Alex didn't miss this gap.

Tang tang!Tatatatang!

Alex was convinced that the intruder had suffered deadly damage and was embarking on a more aggressive offensive. The sniper was converted back to a pistol and bullets were constantly fired at Grid.

"..."

The intruder was a great demon. Protect the Behen Archipelago from the great demons and save humanity. This was the command that Pagma, his summoner, gave him and was the driving force behind Death Knight Alex. Alex wouldn't stop attacking until he died. The result?

Tatatatang!

As only two seconds remained for the immortality passive, Grid's body had already become riddled with bullets. Alex used quick fire skills without a sense of reason. At this point, Grid's fury reached its peak.

"...Making me consume my immortality."

It meant he couldn't immediately challenge the next island.

"Thanks to you, I have to grind for another day. Blackening!"

Kuwaaaaaang!

A whirlwind emerged and covered Grid. Grid's skin turned pale and the whites of his eyes became black. Even his visible breath was black.

Your black magic power has increased.]

[You don't have any black magic power. It will be replaced with demonic power.]

[While Blackening is activated, your species will change to half-demon.]

[As a half demon, your maximum health is reduced by 50%. Your attack power, magic power and agility will increased by 30% each.]

[All attacks will be converted to the dark attribute.]

His body was already in the immortal state! Grid didn't need to be afraid of taking additional damage from Demon Slayer Alex. The key to ending this battle as soon as possible was Blackening. But.

[There is one second remaining on the immortality passive.]

Could he beat Alex, with two thirds of his health gauge remaining, in one second?

“Blacksmith’s Rage!”

Tang tang!

Tatatatang!

Grid used a buff and rushed in a straight line. There was no need for evasive behaviour and Grid succeeded in quickly narrowing the distance to Alex. His agility also rose due to Blackening.

“Item Transformation! Lifael’s Spear!”

Kuoooooooooh!

The God Hands turned into golden spears and pierced Alex at the same time.

[The duration of immortality is over.]

Grid’s life became finite.

Clink!

Alex’s skull seemed to be smiling as he pointed the pistol at Grid. Grid hadn’t been able to enjoy the effect of Tiramet’s Belt and the First King title due to an instantaneous death with nearly 50% of his health remaining. He only had 1 health point left and was facing Alex’s pistol...

‘...He is calm?’

The 60th island. Sticks was startled while watching Grid’s battle. Grid was on the threshold of death and facing Alex who had almost half his health left. Yet Grid’s eyes didn’t shake at the pistol aiming at him. An unbelievable calm had settled over him. Sticks thought that Grid’s composure was abnormal.

‘The one who is blessed by the gods.’

People were small in front of death. The countless challengers who stepped onto the Behen Archipelago felt frustration and despair when facing death. Yet Grid didn’t seem fazed at all.

Taaang!

In the crystal ball. Alex’s pistol fired from in front of Grid. The sound of the gunshot caused Sticks and Bini to close their eyes. Both of them was expecting Grid’s death. But Grid didn’t give up. He didn’t feel frustration or despair. The worst scenario?

‘How many times did I not experience the worst?’

Grid was already very familiar with it.

Taaang!

The moment Alex fired his pistol.

“Freely Move!”

It was the skill attached to the title ‘Secret Hero.’ It was a high level dash skill that avoided all attacks until it reaches the ‘desired target’ within 200 meters.

“...!!”

Alex's purple light shook. He was confused that the four bullets fired from right in front of Grid were avoided with easy movements of the head.

“Heok...!”

Sticks and Bini were astonished as they watched Grid through the crystal ball. In particular, Sticks was so surprised that he felt a recurrence of his heart disease. Then Grid...

[The option effect 'Ecstasy of Desire' has activated from the Sword Born from Enlightenment and Strong Desires!]

[Your attack power will increase by three times and your evasion by 99% for 20 seconds.]

[Your defense has become 0.]

Teong!

Grid dodged all the bullets thanks to the close deployment of Freely Move. He shoved Alex with his shoulders and then followed Alex, who was moving back.

“Pagma's Swordsmanship...!”

Was it the strongest skill Pinnacle Kill? It was insufficient. Grid wanted to use a higher damage skill in order to take advantage of the 200% option attached to the Enlightenment Blade. But Pagma's Swordsmanship had the deadly disadvantage of a long cooldown time and Link was still on cooldown.

Yet Grid didn't have anything to worry about. For Grid, Link's higher skill Transcended Link was still left!

“Transcended Link.”

“.....!”

Kwa kwang!

Ku kwa kwa kwa kwa! Ku kwa kwa kwa kwa!

A turbulent storm of energy blades at short range! Alex's body became mangled.

Kuwaaaaaaaaang!

The energy blades appeared many times and swallowed him up. The 62nd island shook several times. It was enough momentum to make someone fall down. On the other hand, Death Knight Alex was occasionally healed by the dark damage...

“Kiyaaaaaaaaaack!”

The power of Grid's buff skills and Ecstasy of Desire was overwhelming. It wasn't a level that could be withstood with a certain amount of recovery. The 62nd island was purified.

[Death Knight Alex has been defeated!]

[You have succeeded in beating the 62nd island!]

[Alex's Magic Engineering Bayonet (Produced by Pagma) has been acquired!]

[Alex's Quick Gloves (Produced by Pagma) have been acquired!]

[As a reward for cleansing the island, you have gained one level!]

Shaaaaaaah-

Then a light fell from the sky. The desolate 62nd island was filled with grass and flowers.

"Hah..."

Grid narrowly won. His smile was filled with relief and joy. In fact, it wasn't necessary to give special meaning to playing the game. The game itself was fun and enjoyable.

"Grid! Thank you Grid!"

Sticks made a fuss as he came running from afar. The fairy Bini was flapping his wings beside Sticks. They remembered forgotten dreams and hopes as they saw the increasingly purified Behen Archipelago.

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"You defeated Alex as I expected. It is truly amazing."

Sticks said with a shining face. Grid was also the same. The two of them were delighted to overcome one big mountain. In particular, the excitement that Sticks felt was very big. He had been waiting for the savior to come and purify the Behen Archipelago. Sticks had been waiting for decades. For him, Grid was like a light of hope.

On the other hand, Grid's excited heart was slowly sinking.

"Sticks, I can see why you asserted that I could clear the Behen Archipelago. Demon Slayer Alex couldn't use any of his original skills."

"..."

Based on what Yura showed during the great demon raid, a Demon Slayer's skills were quite diverse and the power was tremendous. Due to their special characteristics of suppressing demonkin, it would've been possible to restrain Grid in Blackening mode.

However, the only skills that Alex used today was the magic power explosion and sudden attack. He used the unique transformation properties of the magic engineering bayonet to go against Grid. In retrospect, the same was true for Lantier. At the time, Grid hadn't noticed because he was killed so quickly. But when he thought about it now, Lantier only used stealth and didn't show any other special skills.

"...It seems that they have lost most of their life skills after becoming a death knight."

It was a state where their base stats and level had significantly dropped from when they were alive. Yet they couldn't even use skills. The Alex who pushed Grid so much was 10 to 100 times weaker than when he was alive.

'This is the reason why Sticks assured me that I could clear the Behen Archipelago.'

Kkuok!

Grid's clenched fist shook. His pride was hurt.

'I'm not as strong as the previous legends. It's just that the previous legend's death knights are weak...'

Sticks looked at Grid's trembling body and didn't deny it.

"That's correct. The legendary death knights here are very weak. They're weak compared to when they were alive, but they have become weaker since their owner Pagma disappeared. To be honest, it's shameful to give them the title of legends. That's why I believe that you could beat them."

"...Hah."

Grid could only sigh. His previous excitement was nowhere to be seen. It was natural. He wasted his immortal skill on a death knight which couldn't even be called a legend. He lost his immortality, despite it being an opponent he could win against without losing his immortality.

'This can't continue.'

Grid knew that his tendency to depend on his immortality was too great.

'Now it isn't the power of items, but the power of immortality? Then I should be called the Immortal King, not the Overgeared King.'

Grid didn't realize that at least the Immortal King was more stylish than the Overgeared King. It was a pity. Grid thought back to his battle with Agnus.

'If I didn't have the immortality when I fought him, I would have been defeated...'

At this moment, Grid realized.

'It isn't just Agnus. The reason I won most of my one on one matches wasn't because I was stronger than my opponent. It was because I had the immortal skill.'

Immortality was a unique ability of the legendary classes. No one would blame Grid for winning due to his immortality. It wasn't reprehensible to use the ability he was given. But Grid criticized himself.

'This type of thinking is a poison.'

The problem was that the idea of 'I can't die because I am immortal' was deeply rooted in his subconscious mind. The perception that 'I can win because I have immortality' would make him think that he couldn't win without the immortality. Grid would someday experience a big upset if he didn't fix this rotten mentality.

It was an accurate guess. Grid wasn't aware of it, but he was going through a transformation that an average person rarely experienced. How many people in the world would become aware of their subconscious thoughts and try to fix them when they realized they were rotten? Many writers rationalized their smoking under the pretext of 'I can't write without cigarettes' and failed to quit smoking for more than 10 years. Grid himself didn't know it, but he was already becoming a special person.

“But.”

Then Sticks voice entered the ears of the deeply focused Grid. He gave a grim reality to Grid in a calm manner but now he was smiling warmly.

"The death knights here are weaker than when they were alive, but these legends are just specters of the past. There are very few people among those living today who can defeat the death knights here." This was the main point. "Please don't misunderstand. The reason I believed in you was because I trusted your skills, not because I ignored the death knights. I have repeatedly told you this, but you're a great person. Take pride in this."

“...”

It was praise from a sage. The past Grid would've been smiling from ear to ear. He would've scratched his head and smiled with a monkey-like face. However, the current Grid wasn't someone who could become complacent. He wanted to go higher. If he wasn't satisfied then he couldn't rejoice when praised.

"I might be great when compared to ordinary people. However, I have to deal with monsters."

The great demons with the power to drive humanity to destruction, Agnus who had contracted with Baal, the Saharan Empire of the West Continent, Ares bordering the empire, Sword Saint Kraugel who boasted a unique presence, the yangbans of the East Continent...

There were also the Overgeared members. They were special companions and competitors. If he was careless, he could fall behind.

'No.'

Grid was already determined to be the best. He believed he was eligible. He had confidence in himself for the first time since he was born. He never wanted to give up.

"Sigh..." Grid took a deep breath and got up. His gaze was resolute. "On the next island, I will win without depending on my immortality."

“...!”

Sticks was startled. He knew that it took at least one day for the immortality ability of a legend to function again.

"Surely you aren't planning to challenge the 63rd island straight away?"

Without the immortal passive! Sticks was overwhelmed by Grid's determination and shook.

"Am I crazy?" Grid stared at Sticks. "Of course I will challenge it tomorrow."

Grid said he wouldn't depend on the immortality, but that didn't mean he would fight without it.

"Why would I challenge it without my immortality?"

“...”

As expected from Grid. He didn't make a mistake despite his commitment. His high pride was easily bent. He didn't want to receive damage from a futile attempt. It wasn't nice to look at, but it was extremely reasonable.

'Indeed... This is the king of a nation...'

All of a sudden, Grid took out cloth and started making underwear.

"Umm..."

The greatest attraction of a game was the loot system. Grid had fun when he checked the result of the item he produced and saw that it was a jackpot. But Grid didn't confirm the information of the items he obtained after raiding Alex. It was due to fear.

'The problem is that Death Knight Alex is weak.'

The Alex of the past was unknown. However, Death Knight Alex was too weak to be called a legend. Of course, that was when compared to the former legends. Among the current players, only Grid and Kraugel could raid Death Knight Alex. He was a powerful boss. But due to Sticks, Grid had the perception that Alex was a weakling. He thought that the items dropped by the weakling Alex would be garbage. In the end.

"Ummm...!"

Grid didn't check the item information while making four underwear. He didn't have the courage to face the awful reality. Sticks was frustrated.

"Take a look at the gun and gloves as soon as possible. They will surely be incredible battle gear."

"Wait... I will make one more underwear."

"..."

No, what was the point of this act? Sticks couldn't understand Grid. However, most players would understand.

'If this underwear has a rare rating then I will check the item information!'

So far, all four underwear that he produced had a normal rating. The underwear production skill level was still low, but Grid thought it was also because he was unlucky.

'The maximum rating that the intermediate level skill can produce is rare... If rare rated underwear appears now, I can interpret it as a moment of luck.'

What if he appraised the items right then?

'The item rating might be higher or there will be one more option...!'

Of course, it was an illogical superstition. It was similar to the enhancement superstition floating among the players where a certain time and place was better for enhancement. But humans loved

superstitions. They especially relied on it when they encountered content with the concept of probability.

[You have completed the underwear production.]

[Under the effect of the intermediate Underwear Production Method, a rare rated underwear has been produced! There is a very low probability of an option being added!]

Ttiring~

[Clean Underwear]

Rating: Rare

Durability: None Defense: 5

* Agility +1.

There are no distinctive features, but this underwear is very comfortable to wear. Activities are comfortable when wearing it.

Weight: 1

* When rare rated items are produced, all stats will permanently rise by +2 and reputation throughout the continent will rise by +30.

Grid suffered a terrible penalty to the blacksmith's benefits after producing a certain number of legendary items. Now his stats didn't rise no matter how many rare and epic items he produced. But that was only for blacksmithing. Grid's tailoring and underwear production skills were only intermediate level, so there were no penalties.

"Now!"

Grid felt great please after seeing that all his stats rose by two for free. He believed his luck was bad and shouted in a loud voice.

"Legendary! Blacksmith's! Appraisal!"

"..."

Some of Pagma's Descendants had a disadvantage of being embarrassing since the skill names had to be cried out. But Grid didn't care. Since the point where he shouted Item Combination, he put an iron plate on his face. Now the embarrassment was for the people with him. For example, Sticks whose face had turned red.

[Observing the target item with the legendary blacksmith's eyes.]

[If the item has a hidden feature, it will be found.]

Ttiring~

[Alex's Quick Gloves (Produced by Pagma)]

Rating: Legendary

Durability: 60/340 Defense: 130

* Normal attack speed is increased by three times.

Gloves made by the legendary blacksmith and Baal's Contractor, Pagma.

He focused on overcoming the weakness of Death Knight Alex, the guardian of the 62nd island.

Weight: 66

"Two times?"

No.

"It isn't two, but three times?"

Grid's heart shook wildly.

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"..."

Grid thought he had stepped on poop. The durability and defense of the Quick Gloves were so below level that it was hard to believe they were legendary items. In addition, there was only one option attached so it seemed like a garbage item.

'Did Pagma really make this?'

Looking back on it now, the works of Pagma that Grid had witnessed weren't that great. The items that the current Grid produced now were often better. But. Grid had never questioned Pagma's ability. Pagma's words that Grid had seen so far were from before he reached his prime. They were items Pagma made in the process of growing up. Grid believed that the items Pagma made in his prime would be amazing. And Pagma's time on the Behen Archipelago was during his last years. It was when he was at his peak.

Yet look at Alex's Quick Gloves! It was absolutely unbelievable that Pagma in his prime made it!

'Did his blacksmithing abilities weaken after making the contract with Baal?'

Misgivings arose. But those misgivings collapsed quickly.

"...Eh? Three times?"

Grid identified the one option attached to the Quick Gloves and his eyes widened. It was the expression of a person who saw something that shouldn't exist in this world.

"Wow..."

It wasn't double the attack speed, but triple?

'It isn't even a probability item.'

That's right. The Quick Gloves were an overpowered item that increased attack speed by three times. It probably had a much higher expected damage value than the 5 Joint Attacks of the Holy Light Gloves.

“No, it isn’t.”

The Quick Gloves clearly stated that this applied to ‘normal attacks.’ It was the so-called basic attacks. The triple increase in attack speed only applied to this. It was completely different from the Holy Light Gloves where the 5 Joint Attacks could apply to anything.

"I wouldn’t have felt so good about this before making the Enlightenment Blade.”

Most players depended on skills rather than basic attacks. It was natural that skill damage was several times higher than normal damage. It was the same for Grid. No, Grid was more than that. Grid had the legendary Pagma’s Swordsmanship with the highest attack power, and his main weapon was Failure, which increased skill damage. The important thing for him was always skill damage. He wasn’t concerned with basic attacks.

However, that story changed once he made the Enlightenment Blade. The black flames attached to the Enlightenment Blade show power above normal active skills and even activated with basic attacks. Grid wanted the black flames to frequently activate. He wanted to trigger the black flames by attacking more often. Acquiring the Quick Gloves that increased attack speed by three times at this point was pure luck.

“Kuhuhuhu...”

Grid burst out laughing. His legs were slightly relaxed. He was so happy that he couldn’t suppress his emotions. He was glad that he acquired the Quick Gloves so soon after making the Enlightenment Blade that had the strongest ‘basic damage.’ Grid felt like he was the protagonist of the world.

"How can I be so lucky...? Heok.”

Grid was murmuring when he suddenly stopped. He had little experience saying these type of lines so it felt strange.

“Surely this isn’t the end of the world?”

The joy and doubts that Grid felt were proportional. He pinched his cheeks several times because he thought it might be a dream. Fortunately, it was reality.

"...Let’s buy a lottery ticket.”

Grid was seriously worried! He caressed the ‘orange’ Quick Gloves with satisfied eyes.

‘Even the color is beautiful.’

What were orange gloves? If Grid was a person with normal senses, he would dislike it. Fortunately, Grid wasn’t ordinary and he liked the orange gloves a lot.

‘I need to constantly disassemble and reassemble it to raise my understanding to 100% and challenge a mass production version.’

He had already decided to mass produce Lantier’s Cloak and give them to the evil eyes kingdom. The number of items he needed to mass produce was increasing, making Grid feel proud. He packed the gloves in his inventory and pulled out the magic engineering weapon next.

‘Indeed...’

Would it be a top rated item like the gloves? Grid shook his head. The problem was that the Quick Gloves were too good.

'I can't expect a big profit to come from two items in a row.'

Yes, it was generally like this. Most boss monsters were likely to drop only one core item. For example, if a legendary item dropped, then the rest of the items were likely to be unique and below. It was the same with Belial. She only dropped one myth rated item. Of course, it wasn't certain that one core item would drop. There was a 99% chance of it dropping, but Grid was likely to hit the 1% chance.

The Quick Gloves had a legendary rating so the remaining magic weapon should be unique or below. It was like Grid expected. Well, only half. Yes, it was half what he expected.

[Observing the target item with the legendary blacksmith's eyes.]

[If the item has a hidden feature, it will be found.]

Ttiring~

[Alex's Magic Engineering Bayonet (Produced by Pagma)]

Rating: Unique (Growth)

Durability: 599/1,260

* Pistol Mode

Attack Power: 870

Mana Purification Rate: +60%

- If you hit the same target five times, there is a 20% chance of causing an abnormal state.

* Rifle Mode

Attack Power: 1,416

Mana Purification Rate: -15%

Firing Speed: -20%

* Bayonet Mode

Attack Power: 1,067

Stabbing Attack Power +50%

- Additional damage every time a combo is achieved.

- The Sword Mastery skill is applicable.

★ Sniper Mode

Attack power: Instantaneous death..

Aiming time: 10 seconds to 2 minutes (depending on the distance)

Cooldown Time: 1 hour.

* Mode conversion is only possible once every four seconds.

A magical engineering bayonet made by the legendary blacksmith and Baal's Contractor, Pagma.

Pagma was inspired by Milepeu and made a bayonet capable of transforming into a sniper rifle, something no dwarven craftsman has managed to do. This is a work that will fascinate the dwarves.

Conditions of Use: Demon Slayer

Weight: 3,050

"It is a unique rating...right?"

The rating was as he expected. But it was a growth item.

'...It is a higher version of the magic engineering gun that Yura is using.'

It was also several times better. A smile appeared on Grid's face as he got two successive benefits.

'Okay, I will give this to Yura.'

Grid didn't even contemplate the idea of using it himself. He was already familiar with how troublesome and difficult it was to raise the experience of a growth item.

"Oh, this rotten item experience."

Vantner, who was raising a pair of growth type axes, complained after raiding a named boss. The Overgeared members comforted him.

"Originally, the experience of an item doesn't climb easily. It will take a least a fortnight to raise an item to the rare rating, despite grinding. It might take a few months to grow to the unique rating and years to grow to the legendary rating.

Recently, there had been a 'growth type item' trend among the top rankers. It was because after level 300, the bosses dropped growth type items and their growth potential was explosive. It seemed like a message to prepare to deal with level 400 monsters.

Of course, expectations were only high at this moment. Boss monsters mainly dropped growth type items that started at the normal rating and they were weak, making it hard to use them as a main weapon.

'Come to think of it... Hasn't it been a year since Grid got Elfin Stone's ring?'

"Isn't it over? It has been less than a year since he got Tiramet's Belt."

"Crazy...! And it still hasn't risen to the legendary rating? I can't imagine how difficult it is to raise the item experience."

Vantner had been doing the ultimate grinding for the last fortnight. It was in order to increase the rating of his twin axes. Thus, for the past fortnight, he had only been searching for durable monsters such as a golem. It meant that he hunted level 300 monsters with a normal item. It was really grinding. Even so, the item experience didn't go up easily, making Vantner go crazy. He once again thought that Grid was great.

"I'm feeling anxious, so how can Grid be so calm?"

If he was Grid, he would want to quickly grow an item stuck at the unique rating. The unique rating was annoying. He would want to use it to raise it to the legendary rating quickly. Once he had an idea, he couldn't concentrate on anything else and would devote himself to raising the item experience for months.

But Grid? Grid never showed any impatience about the item rating. Elfin Stone's Ring, Tiramet's Belt, Iyarugt, and the God Hands. Grid didn't seem obsessed with raising the item experience despite having such huge growth items.

"...How is that possible?"

In particular, it was clear that Grid would become more explosive the moment the God Hands grew to the legendary rating. If Vantner was in Grid's position, he would be obsessed with raising the experience of the God Hands.

"But Grid isn't doing that... Is he a block of stone?"

Come to think of it, Grid was like a block of stone when it came to relationships with girls. This was despite so many of the world's best beauties appealing themselves to him. It was suspicious. Ibellin spoke his thoughts to the puzzled Vantner.

"Brother Grid... Maybe he isn't thinking?"

"..."

Certainly, there were many times when it was hard to understand Grid from the point of view of the Overgeared members, who fell into the category of 'genius.' He had many inefficient priorities and they always wondered what he was thinking. Perhaps that was why? No one denied Ibellin's words about Grid. The moment everyone was thinking this.

"You punks!" Peak Sword, who was trying to raise the experience of a one-handed sword, cried out angrily. "Don't think of God Grid like that! This is God Grid you're talking about! He is too busy to obsess over one item! God Grid isn't an ordinary person like us! He is a king, a king! The king of South Korea!"

"..."

No, wasn't the king's work being done by Lauel? Many people wanted to say this, but they stayed silent.

In the first place, whatever the truth was, it wasn't important to the Overgeared members. Regardless of how Grid behaved or thought, even if he didn't think, they all respected and admired Grid. They couldn't help feeling admiration when looking at the continuously developing Grid.

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Clink!

Grid converted Alex's Magic Engineering Bayonet to sniper mode and checked the maximum distance. The sniping distance wasn't mentioned in the item description. Grid used a target to identify the distance.

'87 meters...'

Of course, every noble Korean male who joined the army would know. The fact that you could hit a 200 meter, 300 meter target with a rifle. But it was obvious that the target was small. When Grid used the sniper mode, it was up to a distance of 87 meters that the 'must hit' option was applied. If the distance was more than that, the target couldn't be seen easily and accuracy would fall, causing a warning window to pop up.

'The performance of the scope is garbage...'

The scope of the sniper model showed little zoom capability. Grid questioned whether this could be called a sniper rifle. But there was a fact that couldn't be overlooked. Satisfy's scientific power remained mostly in the Middle Ages. In Satisfy, guns weren't a produce of science of technology. They were a produce of engineering magic that the dwarves developed. Pagma didn't know how to produce a magic bayonet until he learned it from the dwarves.

'In addition, the sniper mode was an area that even the dwarves couldn't make.'

In the first place, Satisfy had the 'Hawk Eye' skill. It helped to broaden the field of view and to clearly identify distant targets. All the snipers in Satisfy had this skill. Strictly speaking, it was a time when the concept of a scope didn't even exist. The fact that Pagma created a scope in this day and age could be regarded as an amazing event. It was understandable that it would have a poor performance.

"Well, whatever."

Yura was a gunman and should have a vision skill, allowed her to maximize the abilities of the sniper rifle. She could snipe targets that were a few hundred meters away. This was the real reason why Grid wasn't greedy for Alex's Magic Engineering Bayonet. It was the same for the Red Phoenix Bow. It was impossible for Grid to use the power of Alex's Magic Engineering Bayonet to 100% when he didn't have the Hawk Eye skill.

'There's no need to be misled. The aiming time is too long and the target has to be within 100 meters for instant death.'

He didn't need to be greedy. This was originally a weapon for a Demon Slayer. Giving it to Yura would benefit all of the Overgeared Kingdom. Grid didn't doubt it. He smiled cheerfully as he imagined a beautiful woman aiming at the enemy with a sniper rifle. The imaginary Yura looked strangely cute and charming.

"...Sigh."

Grid shook off his imagination. He felt he was pathetic for touching a tree that couldn't be climbed.

'I will just receive damage if I like someone.'

The incident with Ahyoung was the biggest trauma in Grid's life. Grid has no confidence in real world relationships. What about the women screaming his name when he went to Chinese restaurants? That's right. Grid thought the reason these women cheered was because they were pure fans. It was the only rational reason for women being nice to him. Who could imagine that a man who was a celebrity and had the potential to be one of the richest in the world would have such low confidence?

But it was the truth. Grid had received a big psychological blow. Of course, it was only in reality.

'It's okay, I have Irene.'

How lonely would he be without her? He was always thankful for the one who gave him love.

"..."

Grid thought of Irene's warm and kind eyes. His hands were moving non-stop while he was thinking. He cut the cloth with scissors and used thread and needle to turn it into the shape of underwear. Sticks was very embarrassed. A legendary blacksmith and king of a nation was sitting down and making underwear with a sincere expression. Sticks felt that something was wrong. However, Grid wasn't self-conscious when doing his work.

'I have to raise the skill level and make underwear for all the soldiers.'

After acquiring the intermediate Underwear Production Method, Grid's underwear was given a defensive ability, even if it was normal rated. The defense was in the single digits and very minimal, but it was better than nothing. A single digit defense could save 10,000 or 20,000 lives!

'I don't need to make a lot of money... Okay. Let's keep making it. I'll be the manager of an underwear factory.'

The current Grid was focused on raising the skill level of his underwear production. The skill was only at intermediate level and the experience was steadily increasing, despite him not producing high rated items. Thus, he didn't use any special materials for the underwear. He used the cheapest materials. The cost of making the underwear was less than two silver. Of course, even a small amount would accumulate sooner or later. Even if it was two silver per piece, a lot of gold would be required in order to make it for 10,000 soldiers. Sage Sticks was concerned about this part.

"Your concern for the soldiers is great and deserves to be praised. But won't this be a considerable loss for the kingdom?"

Sticks was currently working for the Overgeared Kingdom. Lauel and Rabbit asked him to teach at the academy as well as financial management. That's why he was talking about spending with Grid. Grid felt gratitude to the concerned Sticks and smiled.

"It's okay. I am using my own pockets."

"Huh..."

The king was financing the soldiers? Sticks was surprised by Grid's decision. Humans in high positions were often greedy. It was rare for a person like Grid, who didn't feel any greed, to appear. Grid explained.

"If I make underwear, the soldiers will like me more. Then they won't protest when I raise the taxes later. Right?"

"...I see."

Indeed, humans weren't easy to judge. Sage Sticks felt enlightenment.

[The principal of the Overgeared Academy, Sage Sticks intelligence stat has increased by 10.]

[The principal of the Overgeared Academy, Sage Sticks has learnt the skills 'Human Vigilance' and 'Caution.']

"????"

What happened? Sticks bowed to Grid, who didn't know what was going on.

"Thank you."

"..."

Somehow, Grid felt a bit upset.

"I feel it every time, but the comfort of the Comet Group's diamond class capsule is really great."

Even playing PC games on a small monitor stimulated the human peripheral nerves. Anyone who played PC games would experience the hand holding the mouse becoming covered in sweat. The excitement of virtual reality games, which was a much more immersive experience than PC games, was much greater.

Sweat flowed all over Shin Youngwoo as he got up from the capsule. If it wasn't for the diamond class capsule's ability to control the condition of the occupant, he would be sweating like a drowned rat. Youngwoo was excited from going against Death Knight Alex. Youngwoo was feeling expectant for the confrontation with the death knight on the 63rd island and the rewards he would get.

There was no fear. He was burning with motivation to win without the immortal skill.

"Let's wash up."

Lululala~

Youngwoo hummed as he headed to the bathroom, turning on the TV attached to the marbled wall of the bathroom. It was naturally fixed to a channel specializing in news about Satisfy.

『 Do you remember the news a week ago where there was a rebellion within the Saharan Empire? Surprisingly, unlike the predictions of experts, the empire still hasn't subdued the rebels. 』

The point of rebellion on the news screen was 'Lubana.' It coincided with the place that Lauel had mentioned.

'Right there...'

Grid was rubbing soap over his body when his hand suddenly stopped. The anchor's voice was continuing.

『 It is interpreted that the person who is supposed to be Undeclared King Madra's opponent is playing a big role. 』

“...”

Undeclared King Madra. The hero who defended Lubana from the empire during its heyday and boasted overwhelming defense. He had never been defeated and was called the Undeclared King. It was easy to deduce that he was a legend. Thus, Youngwoo was wary.

『 We should pay attention to the identity of the Undeclared King's descendant. A player or an NPC? What new wind will they bring to Satisfy? 』

The artificial intelligence of named NPCs was excellent. Better than most humans. Whether the Undeclared King's descendant was a NPC or player, it was clear they would have a big influence on the West Continent in the future. Just like right now. Their emergence allowed the Overgeared Kingdom and Valhalla to take a breath from the empire's pressure and made the empire's influence decrease.

‘The descendant of the Undeclared King is likely to be a player like me.’

Of course, there was a chance it could be an NPC. It was still impossible to speculate about their identity.

‘Anyway, it's great.’

According to Ares, there was a tremendous gap between the empire's solo number knights. The fifth knight was at the level of the current best players. Thus, the fifth knight was a bit better than Kraugel and Grid. The fourth knight was many times stronger and the third knight several times stronger than the fourth knight. Among them, the one considered to be the strongest...

‘The first knight.’

Mercedes. He had already met the young woman, whose name reminded Youngwoo of a luxury foreign car. He had felt it intuitively. She was a wall that couldn't be overcome yet. The army she led had destroyed the Ares Army, yet they were now being defeated by the Undeclared King's descendant.

‘Is it really an NPC?’

If the Undeclared King's descendant was a player, they couldn't afford to go against the empire yet.

‘In the first place, a player would have a very low level. If he just became a legend... No, wait.’

Just becoming a legend? There was no reason to think so. Youngwoo got goosebumps. The fact that Youngwoo and Kraugel became legends was only reported several months later. It was also due to unavoidable circumstances. Youngwoo revealed his identity while raiding the Yatan Servants and Kraugel revealed he was a legend while raiding the great demon.

‘Can a low level player stop the imperial army? If the Undeclared King's descendant is a player, they might've obtained the legendary title a long time ago.’

Shaaaaaaah-

Youngwoo stood in the shower. He smiled as he saw the water flowing down his body.

'An NPC or player is welcome.'

Really, there was no room to relax. Satisfy gave people constant irritation and vitalization. Youngwoo felt anxious, but delighted. His complicated emotions burned brightly. He would soon enter the 63rd island.

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Swaaaaah.

A bridge connecting the sky and the land. The waterfall in the center of the 62nd cleansed island reached several thousand meters in height. It was difficult to gauge the scale of it and the power of the waterfall was great. Water splashed in every direction like rain seeping into the earth.

Sticks had a weak body and was uncomfortable with the cold water. However, Grid grew into a man who didn't fear sharp blades. He wasn't surprised at all by the deafening noise of the waterfall.

"Do you know in advance what the guardian of the next island is?"

There was a saying that knowledge of the enemy made you unbeatable. It would be difficult for Grid to win without relying on his immortality, so he wanted more information. He wanted to know in advance what the boss of the next island was and prepare for it.

Unfortunately, the next island was uncharted territory for Sticks. It was natural. In the first place, he was only able to reach the 60th island thanks to Grid.

"I can't jump to conclusions... I'm sorry that I can't help."

"Don't bow your head."

In the old days, Grid would've done more than grumble. A man of great wisdom. No, an elf, should be able to help him. But now Grid understood. He wasn't foolish enough to offend the other person because the work didn't go according to his will. He put himself in Sticks position. This action made Sticks put in a bit more effort. Sticks was deep in thought for a moment before opening his mouth.

"Previously, I ruled out Sword Saint Muller. It is also likely that Pagma, the creator of this Behen Archipelago, won't appear. Of course, Braham won't be present either."

It was natural. Braham's soul was currently with Grid. Still, Grid couldn't help feeling relieved.

'I won't have an answer if Braham appeared as a lich.'

The death knights of the former legends could only use 'basic skills' and that was their weakness. But not for Braham. Braham's enhanced spells were powerful even at the lowest level of magic. It was clear that Lich Braham would have a very high level of difficulty, even if only basic magic was used.

'Braham, do you know that you are really great?'

-Hmph, not all legends are the same. I was the most outstanding among the legends.

Now Braham was in high spirits from a little praise. It was ridiculous when he was a professional troll. Grid stuck his tongue out at Braham without hesitation while Sticks analysis continued.

"Apart from those three, Lantier, and Alex, there are four legends left. The legendary archer Povia, the legendary tailor Kruger, the legendary miner Gis. And..."

It was said that there was a total of nine legends. Then who was the last one? Grid was now certain.

"Madra?"

"You already know."

It was as he expected. The identity of the ninth legend was the Undefeated King Madra, who overwhelmed the empire. He was the only king among the first legends.

"The four of them will appear sequentially on the remaining four islands."

It couldn't be predicted who would appear next. Yet Grid's heart had become relaxed.

"I can easily win against two of them."

They were the legendary miner Gis and the legendary tailor Kruger. Grid thought they were easy because they were production class legends. This was a mistake.

"...You are a blacksmith."

"..."

Pagma was a blacksmith and a great swordsman. Gis and Kruger would also have powerful abilities.

"It's reasonable to think..."

Grid was filled with tension. When he looked back at himself and Pagma, he was sure that Gis and Kruger wouldn't be easy opponents. The biggest problem was that he had no information about their fighting abilities. Sage Sticks' knowledge helped him.

"Madra is a strategist who mastered martial arts. Gis is a tanker who demonstrated a rock-solid defensive ability based on his strong physical strength. And Kruger was famous for his killer needles."

"Hrmm..."

Grid tried to think. He first classified Povia and Gis as easier opponents.

'Archer Povia isn't as threatening. Once I narrow the distance to 200 meters, I can approach using Freely Move and then overpower the archer who has weak physical strength.'

A tanker was also easy to deal with.

'Tankers aren't aggressive... On the other hand, both my defense and attack power are high. I will win as long as I keep hitting Gis.'

On the other hand, he was likely to struggle against Madra.

'If Madra really mastered all martial arts, he would've learned a variety of swordsmanship. Most of his active skills from his prime are sealed, but he's still a threat because he has so many skills. In addition, he was a king. Based on the title of First King, he's likely to have a special survival passive.'

The most important target to watch out for was Madra. Then Kruger? He didn't know. He couldn't grasp anything from 'killer needles.' But Grid had Sticks. Grid once again relied on Sticks.

"What are killer needles?"

Sticks kindly explained to the questioning Grid.

"It's battle-specialized acupuncture that drives people to death. As a legendary tailor, Kruger is a master of sewing. He uses the needle very well. His technique of stabbing a needle precisely to overwhelm the opponent is extraordinary."

"Hrmmm..."

Martial arts came to mind. Acupuncture in martial arts was generally a versatile skill. They could kill or save the target with one thin needle. But Grid didn't take it as a threat.

'Doesn't it sound weak?'

There were clear limits to a needle weapon. It was too short. Grid could easily hit it with a sword. Furthermore.

'It's thin and will have less power.'

Grid's Triple Layers boasted a defensive ability that could prevent a knife. A thin and short needle couldn't penetrate Triple Layers. Grid grinned.

"In the end, they're all easy opponents except for Madra."

Grid wanted to meet Madra last. He thought it would be ideal to meet Madra after encountering easier opponents first, gaining their items and becoming stronger.

[The cooldown time of immortality is over.]

Then a notification window popped up. Grid stepped towards the bridge leading to the next island and waved at Sticks.

"Then I'll see you on the next island."

"I will support you."

Sticks felt something strange as he saw Grid's confident figure. But he didn't express it. He trusted Grid's skills. In the meantime, Grid crossed the bridge and entered the gate.

Paaaat!

Grid's figure disappeared. He entered the 63rd island.

[You have entered the 63rd island.]

'Who is it?'

Povia, Madra, Gis, and Kruger. Which of the remaining four legends would be guarding the 63rd island? Grid was first on the lookout for sniping. The God Hands spread out and found the sniping locations. It was an act that assumed the opponent was Povia. But no arrows flew after dozens of seconds. The likelihood of the 63rd island's guardian being Povia was significantly lowered.

'Unlike Lantier and Alex, they aren't appearing immediately...'

Grid guessed that the guardian of the 63rd island was likely to be Gis or Kruger. They were relatively weak, so Grid thought they wouldn't act carelessly. At that moment.

"Legendary Tailor's Eye."

"...?!"

A chill went down Grid's spine. It was because he heard the distinctive voice of a death knight from a rock behind him. The voice sounded like it was speaking in a big cave.

"God Hands!"

Grid drew the God Hands closer in anticipation of an attack. He grabbed the Enlightenment Blade and planned to counterattack, but the death knight just stared down at him. The death knight's name was Kruger. The legendary tailor who created the invisibility cloak. He looked at Grid and said something again.

"Legendary Tailor's Eye."

"...!"

Grid clearly heard Kruger's words and became alert. If the Legendary Tailor's Eye was similar to the Legendary Blacksmith's Eye, Kruger was now checking his item information. It was a chance to expose a weak point. Grid couldn't give Kruger a chance to observe him. In the first place, he thought of Kruger as an easy opponent.

"Pagma's Swordsmanship, Transcended Link!"

Kwa kwa kwa kwang!

The storm of blades aimed directly at Kruger on the rock! Grid thought that Kruger wouldn't be able to protect himself since he was busy observing Grid's items. While Kruger was suffering great damage, he planned to climb onto the rock and link the next attack. However.

Swaeeeeek!

A sharp needle aimed at Grid's brow as he was jumping towards the rock. It was a needle that had flown from the explosion generated by Transcended Link. There also wasn't a message window indicating that Kruger suffered damage.

'He avoided or blocked Transcended Link?'

Grid couldn't understand it but he kept his composure. He avoided the needle that was less than five centimeters in length and succeeded in climbing up the rock. Then he was surprised.

'No?'

Gone! Kruger had disappeared from the rock. Grid was the only one present on the rock.

'What is going on?'

Grid was looking around with confusion when he heard Braham's voice.

-Use Magic Detection.

It was the same advice as when Lantier was hiding. Grid realized.

'Invisibility cloak!'

Yes, this was the legendary tailor Kruger. Just like the legendary blacksmith Grid was overgeared, Kruger would also be overgeared.

Puok!

Grid was urgently trying to use Magic Detection when a shock hit his side. A needle from the hidden Kruger had pierced Grid. But.

[You have suffered 430 damage.]

Indeed, a needle was a needle. It failed to pierce Triple Layers. The impact of the sting was very slight and the actual damage was extremely low.

"Is this a joke?"

Grid snorted and started the sword dance for Wave. It was necessary to use a wide area skill to attack the invisible Kruger and then he would use Magic Detection during that time. But he failed.

[Kruger's acupuncture needle has reversed your mana flow.]

[You can't resist.]

[Pagma's Swordsmanship, Wave has failed.]

[Your health will suffer three times the mana that was consumed by the failure.]

[You have suffered 2,400 damage.]

"...?!"

The strongest debuffer. That was the reality of Kruger. Grid felt goosebumps on his skin and hurriedly moved. Meanwhile, Kruger had taken off the invisibility cloak and revealed his appearance. The death knight was holding three needles in every finger joint. He looked like a lich in his robe.

"Legendary Tailor's Eye."

Pahat!

Kruger used the same skill again. A violet light glowed as he contemplated Grid. He felt naked as detailed information about his items was sent to Kruger.

“This bastard!”

Grid felt uncomfortable and attacked Kruger. Kruger’s needle causing mana reflux was a one time effect so Grid could now use skills without any penalty. He used Link without hesitation. At that moment.

Paaaat!

A translucent circle was created in a 10 meter radius around Kraugel and Grid’s Link hit it directly.

Tteteong!

Tteteteteong!

“...?!”

It didn’t move? Kruger’s barrier held firmly despite being hit by Link. It didn’t shake at all, no matter how many times the black flames exploded. Grid was confused.

‘What is this ridiculous defense technique?’

It was a misunderstanding. This wasn’t a skill used by Kruger but a system effect. Grid quickly realized this.

[For the next 10 minutes, the legendary tailor Kruger will make an item!]

“...Eh?”

Inside the ward. The squatting death knight pulled out a cloth and started sewing it with a needle. It was a funny picture.

“???????”

Question marks appeared over Grid’s head.