

Warlord 131

Chapter 131 Law of the Jungle

It was nice to have someone worry about his well-being.

However, Dilan knew what he was doing.

He had gained a lot from advancing to Tier-1.

That was also why he was able to leave the short meeting feeling unburdened by the worries that had been troubling him

Because Dilan had yet to receive the Serpentine Blade, his next stop was the weapon storage.

The few Silver treasures which he had brought to the weapon storage included not only two more Featherlight backpacks but also another piece of equipment.

But that piece of equipment was something he was, in fact, already wearing!

As he looked at the leather gloves he was wearing appreciatively, a faint smile emerged on his face.

[[Balrog's leather gloves] <Tierless Silver>

Comfortable brown leather gloves made from the leather of a cursed Balrog. After dispelling the curse, the leather's quality degraded a lot, leading to its current low Tier and rank.

[+5 Strength]

[Momentary Strengthening] Consumes 5 Units of Mana in exchange for +10 Strength for 10 Seconds!
Can be used thrice a day!(3/3)

The [Balrog's leather gloves] were the second treasure that he received from the Gate in exchange for 25 Silver Essence crystals.

Just a single glance was enough to ascertain that they were extremely powerful. Until now, he had received only two pieces of equipment that possessed an ability and each of them was extremely great.

The gloves were not on par with the Aeris' leather boots, but that was quite difficult for any other equipment to achieve, to begin with.

Both were Tierless Silver treasures, which meant that he shouldn't expect too much.

Considering this, Dilan was sensible enough to not start lamenting about the Silver Essence crystals he used in exchange for the treasures.

In fact, he was overjoyed about his gains!.

Other than the Serpentine Blade blueprint, the Balrog's hide gloves, and some Featherlight backpacks, there was one more item Dilan wanted to pick up.

It was a rather ordinary-looking gray Saber. The saber was around 1 meter in length, with a rather short hilt that could only be grasped with one hand.

If one were to take only a fleeting glance, nobody would be able to tell how razor-sharp the saber was. And that was especially why Dilan picked it, rather than choosing a different weapon!

[Gray Slayer] <Tierless Silver>

Seemingly ordinary Saber with a deadly sharp blade.

Can cut through the hide of all beings at and below Tier-1 Level 10!

The Gray Slayer didn't have any additional attributes which were contrary to the Clawed Gloves, the Captain's Sword, and all the other weapons Dilan wielded.

Nonetheless, he felt rather comfortable with the Saber in his hand. It was quite compatible with him and could cut through the hide of all beings at and below Tier-1 Level 10.

This meant that even Silver monsters with powerful defenses shouldn't be able to block his sword's attack if they were within the mentioned threshold.

That would be for the best, which was also why Dilan couldn't help but smile faintly.

Swinging it around to test its strength and grip made him feel extremely calm and comfortable.

If someone were to see him from outside just now, they would wonder whether Dilan was wielding a saber for the first time in his life, or if he had been raised with a saber right by his side.

His movements were exceptionally smooth, and no wasted movement could be detected.

It was almost as if his body was made of water instead of bones which made him move around gracefully.

This eerie sensation would make numerous people have goosebumps as one could easily detect that Dilan was an expert!

Dilan had yet to understand that the memories, the knowledge and the combat experience he had imprinted in his mind owing to the [True Weapon specialist] ability were the cause for this.

But that was something he would notice the moment he started his first fight!

Right now, Dilan was simply quite satisfied with his choice of equipment.

The number of abilities he could use was also more than enough. Dilan had an Origin ability, four active abilities, and five passive abilities.

Even if he couldn't use [Berserk Mana] at will, he still had his Occupation's special trait [Bearer of Pain].

After adding the two equipment abilities, and his powerful title [Beyond the Stars] to the long list of his abilities, it was impossible for him not to be excited and confident in his capabilities.

That was also what led Dilan to the third floor of the supermarket.

He had already relayed every single piece of information he had noticed about the supermarket to the others.

They wouldn't enter it for the time being, at least not until Dilan gave him their approval.

After all, he was the only one, who was partially immune to the poison within the mana-rich mist!

As the others couldn't enter it, Dilan put the tightly stoppered bottles of the poison fog slime liquid outside the supermarket entrance so that the others could take it back to the cafeteria.

He knew that his people wouldn't play around with the liquid that burned through and corroded everything that held the slightest trace of life immediately on contact.

"If they use the poison properly, even hunting ordinary Tier-1 monsters shouldn't be much of an issue."

From his experience, ordinary Tier-1 monsters posed him no threat now. They were simply too weak to level up quickly despite the high amount of Essence they required.

After choosing a Common ancient path of advancement while having rather low stats their strength would merely double.

Even then, they hadn't been opponents of Dilan, and the only issue he had while facing ordinary Tier-1 monsters above level 0 was the fact that his weapons had been too weak to finish them off.

Of course, there were specific monsters that could not be included in his opinion about most ordinary monsters.

But even then, this was only the minority of monsters, those that owed powerful abilities, for example.

Dilan had yet to create a perfect ranking system for monsters, how to figure out whether a beast was truly powerful or not, and what else he had to keep in mind after encountering new monsters.

There were too many uncertain factors about the existence of ordinary, Bronze, and Silver Essence crystals.

Before encountering Slimes, Dilan had been sure that Silver monsters were even more powerful than quite a few ordinary Tier-1 monsters.

However, Slimes were simply weak which was a stark contrast to the high ranking their Essence crystal had!

That was also the reason for him to enter the third floor of the supermarket, where the most powerful Slimes resided.

The air was polluted by poison, and enriched by powerful mana that circled around Dilan as if it wanted to greet him.

No sooner had he stepped on the third floor did he spot dozens of rather large slimes.

Their size was at least, ten times that of the ordinary slimes, and one could rather easily tell that they were not completely harmless.

But even if they released poisonous mist that was potent enough to kill most Tier-1 monsters, Dilan was not fazed.

[[Immunity (Passive)] Tier-0★??

Gains immunity against poisons and infections below Tier-1 Level 10! Immunity includes scratches of zombies, restricted to 30 scratches/bites a day (30/30)]

His passive Immunity was powerful enough to subdue the effects of the poison that entered his body and render it harmless. Of course, poisons that were more powerful than what his ability could negate, would affect him.

However, Dilan's physique was able to endure a certain amount of poison on its own owing to his Health being 88 times stronger than the average human before the Primordial Ascension!

Ignoring the slight itch he felt all over his body, Dilan walked through the third floor of the huge supermarket.

He could ignore the slimes around him because they were way too slow to attack him, if they would even think of doing that in the first place.

They didn't attack him the entire time he roamed around the floor. Unfortunately, that was a big mistake on their side because Dilan wouldn't show any mercy to other existences just because they didn't attack him actively.

Generating poison was also a means of attack, though it would be a passive attack. Thus, if he wouldn't nip it in the bud, the poisonous slimes might evolve into existences that would corrode the entire supermarket before infesting the surrounding area, including the hospital.

Of course, that could also be deemed as an excuse but it was a fact.

Even if the fact were to be proven false, Milarn had turned into a world that followed the law of the jungle! The stronger could kill whoever they wanted, even if there was no reason to do so.

Realizing the need to finish off the threat, Dilan kept a calm mind before he approached three of the large slimes that created the most vicious poisonous fog.

Dilan tightly grasped the Gray Slayer and pulled it back before lashing out with a lightning-fast speed.

His momentum was extremely fast and his moves were on point which allowed him to cut through the huge slime's liquid.

The saber had dug deep into the slime. However, even before it reached the core, Dilan instinctively retracted the weapon.

He had sensed something that bothered him a little bit.

"How frightening! The deeper one cuts, the higher is the liquid's corrosive effect!"

Dilan could have expected something like that, but he didn't expect that the corrosive effect would also affect metals.

That had not been the case before which astonished Dilan for a moment.

Fortunately, there was still a different way for him to eliminate his opponents, other than fighting close range.

[Mana Slash]

Without a second of hesitation, Dilan jumped back. Pulling the Gray Slayer sideways, he smiled faintly before using 20 Units of Mana to empower his Occupational ability [Mana Slash]

The moment he activated this ability for the first time, he immediately sensed that 20 Units of mana were drained from his body.

The mana was led toward the Gray Slayer that began to glow just a second later. It was a bright blueish-white light, which shrouded the saber.

It was highly compressed, and it almost looked like the mana was screaming to be released. The Gray Slayer began to vibrate, and a faint smile appeared on Dilan's face as he sensed the terrifying power behind the ability he had just used.

Retreating a few more steps, Dilan got an idea that caused him to smile even brighter as his eyes shone in pure excitement.

A moment later, he slashed at the three huge slimes he had targeted to kill today!

The moment he brandished Gray Slayer, his mana was released in the form of a crescent slash of compressed energy.

Dilan's heart thumped wildly as the [Mana Slash] was released, just to cut through the surroundings, piercing through all three huge slimes at the same time.

He had issued a seemingly simple horizontal slash, but it was amplified with [Mana Slash] which used 20 Units of Mana. It had been enough to cut through the slimes' highly mana-resistant liquid mass and their core.

They had been halved in a neat manner as if their bodies were made of nothing but air before the crescent blade beam kept advancing, piercing out, and through the wall behind.

'Wow...'

There was no shockwave issued by the slash. However, the impact had been strong enough to push him backward.

He retreated a few more steps before he finally halted, only to see that the slimes' liquid mass splattered all over the ground.

It reached his feet before a burning smell reached Dilan's nose.

"Fuck, my boots!!!"

Chapter 132 [Bearer of Pain]

Instinctively Dilan jumped on top of the wooden shelf right next to him.

While taking a look at his boots, he hastily wiped off the huge slimes' liquid without caring about the smoke around his arms.

The jacket he was wearing had been burnt before the liquid charred his skin as well.

Fortunately, the potency of the slimes' liquid deteriorated only moments after they died.

Because of this, his Immunity ability and high Health stat were more than enough to overcome the poison that burned his skin.

Ignoring his burning skin, Dilan shifted his focus to the halved slime cores. A bright smile emerged on his face.

“So powerful!”

He had tested his new occupational ability only once. But that was already more than enough to show him how powerful the ability was.

It required lots of mana to make him exert a high amount of lethal force. However, that was perfectly fine with him.

Slowly approaching the slime cores while treading carefully on the shelf, he managed to reach two out of three cores. Extending his arm that held the Gray Slayer, Dilan was able to reach the last core as well by using its tip to pull the core towards himself..

He grit his teeth a bit but managed to use the saber to free the Silver Essence crystal that was loosely embedded in the halved slime core.

It didn't take him long to get his hands on all three Silver Essence crystals.

For a second he considered storing them away to exchange them with a Tier-1 Silver treasure.

However, after giving it another thought, Dilan doubted that it was easy to obtain a Tier-1 Silver treasure.

They were far more valuable than ordinary Silver treasures, which meant that it should be even more difficult to obtain them.

‘Only the huge Gate in the Krendel's Underground Valley should be able to provide Tier-1 treasures, either way!’

Dilan shrugged his shoulders after he understood this before the Silver Essence crystals crumbled in his hand.

[Three <Silver> Essences of Tier-1 Level 4 Gigantous Viper Slime have been absorbed→ +3.5 Mana]

The moment he absorbed the Silver Essence, Dilan's entire body was swept through by a soothing sensation.

It invigorated him and made him feel as if he was capable of achieving everything. The essence he absorbed was several times more potent than the strongest Essence crystal he had absorbed before advancing to Tier-1.

And that was despite the severe restrictions the Blessed Curse, and his passive occupational ability [Warrior's Unparalleled Physique] put on him.

But that was especially the reason for him to be so confused.

“They’re not enough to level up??” Dilan didn’t even grumble about the status points because he had expected to receive so few.

In fact, gaining 3 Units of Mana was already more than what he had expected to receive. He was extremely lucky with such a high gain.

Even then, Dilan was truly astonished about the fact that he didn’t level up after absorbing such a high amount of Essence.

Even the restriction that was 20 times harsher than the current one shouldn’t have prevented him from leveling up. After all, he had just absorbed three Silver Essences of Tier-1 existences at level 4.

This truly astonished him.

“Is it just because I need 20 times the usual amount of Essence, or is it because Tier-1 existences require tens of times the usual Essence to level up once?”

The latter was likely to be a big factor.

Unfortunately, Dilan didn’t know how much Essence one required in order to level up. That meant he had no clue on how terrifying a demand of 20 times more than that of everyone else, truly was.

‘Other Ascenders should have received similar restrictions, right?’

Considering that the Necromancer occupation ought to be extremely powerful as well, Dilann guessed that the being, who would pick this occupation was bound to receive a similarly high demand of Essence.

But that was not really something that made Dilan feel better.

Rather, it made him feel ridiculous because he was trying to find comfort in the sorrow others might have to face as well.

Shrugging his shoulders after he got a grip over himself, Dilan looked for a way to leave the third floor.

He didn’t want to damage the Aeris’ leather boots any further. Thus, he made a big detour before he reached the stairs that lead to the lower floor.

For a moment, he considered killing more Slimes, but most of them would only provide him with Essence.

Dilan had already absorbed most Slime Essence crystals before. That meant he wouldn’t get any status points, either way.

Considering the low rate of Essence he received per Essence crystal, Dilan stopped wasting his time on procuring Essences.

The only task he was left to do within the supermarket was to exploit the mana-dense environment to recuperate his mana as quickly as possible.

At the same time, he tested out the special trait that he had received from Kirak’s Vassal [Bearer of Pain].

His life force was drained, while mana was created out of it.

The sensation of losing some of his life force was...terrifying to put it simply. It was certainly not something Dilan was accustomed to enduring.

However, the fact that he could create Mana out of his life force was something that was a rare and extremely advantageous trait.

Even if it took away his breath for a moment, activating his special trait [Bearer of Pain] could certainly be used to his advantage!

Two Units of his Health were drained in exchange for one Unit of Mana.

In return, Dilan tested out activating [Regeneration] with the use of the said Units of Mana.

'If I can replenish 3 Units of Health rapidly, I can create a steady supply of Mana without too much of a hindrance!'

Of course, Dilan knew that this was not easy to achieve.

That was also why he averted his focus to replenish his Mana faster.

Even with the three additional units of Mana he gained from the three Tier-1 slimes, Dilan didn't have much mana to use.

Every single active ability required Mana to be made use of. That meant he had to start paying more attention on how to utilize his mana properly.

After he took that into consideration, Dilan spent two hours in the supermarket in an attempt to increase his understanding of Mana.

Simultaneously, his Mana had been fully replenished.

He was ready to leave the supermarket, which he did as excitement filled his heart.

Clenching his fist, he smiled brightly at the thought of encountering Tier-1 Ascenders, especially someone with an Origin ability that might be stronger than [Regeneration].

"I hope there will be some stronger insects to fight!" Dilan mumbled while turning his head in the direction of the Death Beatles gang's hideout.

Chapter 133 Disgust

As he stood in front of the corporate building, Dilan couldn't help but smile faintly.

It was broad daylight but he figured that nobody was inside.

But that didn't hold him back from entering the building all alone.

"Isn't it foolish to leave their home without leaving anyone behind to safeguard it?" Dilan wondered.

However, it was just a moment later that he sensed something that attracted his interest.

He perceived denser mana fluctuations from different directions within the building, and a knowing smile that was filled with excitement emerged on his face.

“So it wasn’t abandoned, but you guys are just good at hiding?”

The moment, Dilan said this he activated [Thunder step].

He catapulted his entire body in a specific direction, while a thunderous sound emerged from within his body.

Shortly after, faint currents of electricity emerged from his body as well but that was not something that attracted much attention.

Rather, it was the fact that Dilan shot through the length of the room in a single second like a flash while simultaneously slashing out mercilessly..

At that moment, the outlines of a human emerged from the dark corner Dilan had slashed at.

A face filled with fright appeared right in front of him but Dilan wasn’t too inclined to shower others with mercy.

He could clearly sense that something was wrong with this opponent. It made him feel a deep sense of disgust emerging from the deepest parts of his body.

Thus, he couldn’t show any signs of weakness.

To Dilan’s misfortune, the Ascender he attacked was able to use his active ability a mere fraction of a second before the Gray Slayer slid past the spot he had been standing.

[Shadow traveling]!

The Ascender had to use up more than 10 Units of mana to unleash the full potential of his active ability [Shadow traveling]

However, this was more than enough for him to evade Dilan’s terrifying fast attack.

Dilan only watched his opponent turn into a shadow before merging with the darkness from the corner of a room.

He was supposed to be astonished, but this element of surprise was not exactly something that caught him off-guard.

Rather, Dilan’s excitement increased even further as he began circulating mana through his body.

This invigorated his body and calmed his mind without actually using up a single Unit of Mana.

Using the corner of the room to his advantage, Dilan pushed his feet off the wall to propel himself forward.

This allowed him to keep accelerating his speed as he targeted the area where a new source of mana had appeared all of a sudden.

One could say that Ascenders could be considered as sources of mana. After all, they could make use of mana, generate it on some occasions, and could exert it for all kinds of things.

Recalling that detail, he could easily find the Ascenders, who were in a certain range of his perception.

This range of perception was extremely small and wouldn't be of use in normal circumstances.

However, the traces of the path [Shadow traveling] left behind were within his range.

Due to this, Dilan knew where he had to head to in order to face the first opponent.

He emerged in front of his opponent the instant he pushed his feet off the wall. This astonished the middle-aged man, whose eyes widened in terror.

From the moment Dilan had stepped into the room, each of the four Ascenders had realized that the following few minutes were bound to become a mess.

Dilan's presence alone was enough to tell them that he was a terrifying existence they would not be able to handle.

So far, only Melanie and Pyro had been terrifying in terms of their presence. And, this was more than enough reason for them to hide as well as possible.

At first, they wanted to initiate a surprise attack, but the four Ascenders that were supposed to safeguard the gang's home grew petrified when they perceived Dilan's speed.

They were able to see his outlines but had a hard time keeping track of his movements because he was blindingly fast.

Thus, the three Ascenders, who were still hiding, could only watch in horror when the strongest of them was cleanly sliced into two parts a second after the monster of a human appeared in the room.

In the beginning, Dilan had planned to talk it out with some people, and figure out what exactly they were planning.

But there was something about the Ascender that made Dilan loathe him without even knowing him.

It was just a feeling, but from what he sensed, the Ascender he had just slashed at was certainly someone, who had murdered innocent people!

He was not sure where this sensation originated from, but the moment he emerged in front of the man, goosebumps erupted on his skin.

That was why he had to be killed at once, which Dilan turned into reality without hesitation.

Dilan had yet to figure out if he would feel the same disgusting feeling around the other Ascenders, but he was pretty sure that this was the case.

There was still more than enough time left until the [Thunder Step] ability would wear off.

With that in mind, Dilan shot toward the other corner of the room and emerged next to the second Ascender, just to feel the exact same sensation as before.

'Just what is this?' He wondered. However, this time Dilan didn't kill his opponent. Instead, he merely twisted the Gray Slayer to bash the Ascender with its flat side.

This was more than enough to knock out the Ascender.

In less than five seconds, Dilan had knocked out others as well.

'They're the same?!'

Dilan was confused and he couldn't help but feel like killing them in an instant.

That was how disgusting he felt while breathing in the same air as the three Ascenders around him.

Unfortunately, he had to figure out what that disgusting feeling was, and its source.

Dilan had a faint idea but he didn't like the thoughts that were cropping up in his mind.

As such, he could only frown deeply.

"They killed innocent people and used their Essence crystals, didn't they?" Dilan could only mumble before frowning deeply.

His theory would clearly explain why Pyro was so confident in promising his people to reach Tier-1 so quickly, and easily.

The stats of the Ascenders Dilan fought had been around 15. This was far from enough to overcome his Agility of around 55 Units after [Thunder Step] was activated.

Nonetheless, 15 Units were far more than any of Dilan's team members.

Even after advancing to Tier-1 not many in his group would reach such high stats at once.

Those who were able to accomplish this were the few with his ranked occupations.

And Dilan was certain that the four Ascenders, who were supposed to safeguard the Death Beatles gang's home, hadn't advanced by choosing a powerful occupation.

Rather, he presumed that they must have chosen a Common, or at most, Rare occupation to advance to Tier-1

"So it's true, after all?"

Chapter 134 Cruelties!

While he tied up the three unconscious Ascenders, Dilan's mind was a mess.

There was a theory he had in mind pertaining to the individualistic nature of human beings.

If he was not wrong the system might consider every single human as an individual entity.

This was something that sounded extremely logical but that was not the crucial point behind his theory.

Considering that his theory was right, every single human would provide status points to the beings that absorbed their Essence crystals.

This meant that the restriction of absorbing a maximum of three to four Essence crystals before no further status points would be provided turned out to be baseless.

Had that theory been true, it would have been possible for someone to gain numerous status points and some Essence by killing humans, whether they were unlevleled or Ascenders.

After all, every human being was supposed to have an Essence crystal.

Dilan knew that unlevleled existences had one owing to the first day after the Primordial Ascension, where he had wanted to save a girl in front of the hospital but had seen her turn into a zombie.

He was merely a second too late but a completed Essence crystal had already formed in her mind.

Following that, the Ascender he had just killed gave him a Bronze Essence crystal as well. He had pulled it out of the Ascender's head without feeling much about it but that was not the crucial point.

"If they were mainly searching for Survivors, who are considered easy prey for Pyro and his team, they might have had much higher stats than I do...and they might have killed hundreds, maybe even more than a thousand innocent humans by now!"

It didn't bother Dilan that his opponents were likely to be extremely powerful. On the contrary, Dilan was looking forward to his encounter with them.

However, the possibility that the Death Beatles gang was likely to have killed a thousand or so human Survivors made him feel murderously angry.

That was also the reason why he didn't hold back the moment he noticed that the three Ascenders he had knocked out a while ago had woken up.

"Who...WHO are you?!!" One of the Ascenders asked, his voice filled with the intent to kill Dilan.

If the man in his 40s wouldn't have been tied up, he would have jumped up and attacked Dilan already.

Under normal circumstances, the distinct intent, and deep hatred the man showed would scare the person, who had to face his wrath.

But Dilan was unfazed. It was not the first time he had been subjected to a rage that was high enough to make the other person want to kill him.

It wouldn't be the last time either.

"You need not worry about my name or identity. You just have to tell me how someone like you was able to become that strong! You're already at Tier-1, but probably through a Common ancient path... sooo what did you do?!"

Dilan's expressions were ice-cold as he looked at the man in front of him.

He wouldn't hesitate to kill the man, and the exact same could be said about torture. Dilan had experienced more than enough pain to know that attacking which part of the body would hurt the most.

As such, he would do everything needed to procure the information he wanted.

Slowly approaching the man, Dilan lifted his foot a few centimeters into the air.

A mere moment later, he stomped his foot hard on the right foot of the man, who had continued to glare at him.

Dilan could tell that the man in front of him was not fazed by death.

Fortunately, the same didn't apply to the others. That made it quite easy for him to make an example of this man and showcase what the others would face if they were to disregard his questions.

They simply watched in horror as their comrade's foot was squashed before he screamed out in pain.

The three Ascenders knew that their gang would not return until the late afternoon.

In the end, this made things much worse as their fate would be sealed until then.

That was also the reason they could only look at Dilan with distinct fear in their eyes.

Even if they found satisfaction in the pain and death of others, this didn't mean that they liked being in pain.

Like true hypocrites and selfish people, if they could prevent to die, they would do it by all means!

There was no reason for them to be loyal to the Death Beatles gang and embrace death in the process as well.

After all, the two Ascenders didn't belong to the gang before the Primordial Ascension, to begin with.

Thus, while the middle-aged man in his 40s kept quiet after his initial painful scream, the others were ready to reveal everything they knew.

And that was merely after Dilan squashed the foot of the middle-aged man.

'Isn't that too easy? I haven't even started yet!!' Dilan was somewhat dissatisfied, but it was exactly this kind of behavior the two younger Ascenders feared to the core.

Dilan's rather nonchalant expressions while inflicting pain, his ice-cold eyes, and his presence that reminded them of a Demon's, or their worst nightmare was more than enough to inflict the sensation that even a painless death would be a blessing!

This was something the two younger Ascenders never imagined to feel, and it caused far more damage to their mentality and fortitude than one could imagine!

"We will talk, we will tell you everything!! Please don't hurt us, please!!" One of them even begged with his hands folded in front of Dilan who imagined seeing tears in the corner of his eyes.

"In that case, I'm waiting." Dilan stated matter-of-factly while slapping the middle-aged man, who was about to start swearing at his comrade...or former comrade by now.

"The Death Beatles gang is actively searching for the other gangs that have resided in Rian before the Primordial Ascension. They're hunting them down to absorb their Essence, and to take in a few Ascenders, who...saved their own lives by leaving behind their former teammates..."

Their plan is to keep hunting evolved humans to procure their Essence crystals because they have the most value.

While other Essence crystals lose most of their worth after three or four have been devoured, the Essence crystals from humans provide lots of Essence and many status points!

Everyone has advanced to Tier-1, and even if most of us choose a Common ancient path of advancement, our stats are still higher than most Tier-1 monsters we encounter in the outskirts of Rian.

As for-.....”

The younger Ascender continued to speak for a good ten minutes before he finished. His lips were already dry, and his heart was thumping wildly but that was not something he could be concerned about right now.

He was more focused on Dilan and the ways he acted. His gaze followed Dilan as he paced through the room, reminding him of a ferocious hunter who is out for blood.

It was quite obvious that Dilan was displeased with the provided information but the young Ascender didn't dare to lie.

After all, it was easy to understand that Dilan would start torturing them the moment they lied.

That was, at least, what the young Ascender could predict by observing Dilan's behavior and attitude when killing innocent human Survivors was mentioned.

Dilan didn't care about the killed gang members in the slightest. In his opinion, they could slaughter each other whenever they wanted to.

However, the same didn't apply to the innocent humans that had been killed as well.

The Ascender spoke a lot about the torture they had subjected innocent people to.

Dilan presumed that the Ascender didn't even realize what kind of information he had revealed to him.

But that didn't change the fact that Dilan had to finish his job neatly, without making a single mistake. This time there was no way that he would show mercy to anyone, or anybody.

The Shepherds were a different matter, but not the Death Beatles gang.

They had to die...all of them!

And with that thought, Dilan grasped the Gray Slayer tightly before he slashed it across the three Ascenders' necks, beheading them one after another.

“Be happy that I grant you an easy and fast death...”

Chapter 135 One vs 200

Dilan was far from happy after he killed the Ascenders.

But even if he was displeased and angered, it didn't change the situation he had to face ahead.

Dilan bent down while sighing deeply as he retrieved the Essence crystals from the Ascenders.

His expression was stoic while doing so, but anyone, who was to see him right now would be utterly disgusted.

Unfortunately, the feeling of disgust and repulse wouldn't help in the given situation as Dilan had to reach into the head of the Ascenders he had killed in order to procure their Essence crystals.

"Their Essence crystals shall give me the necessary strength to kill all of them!!"

Some might think that Dilan was a hypocrite but that was not something he could be bothered about.

On one hand, he was angered and loathed the Death Beatles gang for absorbing the Essence crystals of humans, whom they killed, while on the other, he was actually doing the same..

However, there was one particular difference between him and the Death Beatles gang...he killed murderers, rapists, and other scums, not innocent Survivors, who were giving their best just to survive one more day.

Dilan was actually not bothered about the gangs fighting against each other. They could do whatever they wanted, but the Death Beatles gang crossed the fine line they should have never dared to reach, to begin with!

That thought was more than enough for Dilan to make his blood boil, and he wouldn't hold back on absorbing their Essence crystals as well.

If they were eager to strengthen him he would readily accept their generosity by granting them a death sentence.

The moment he thought so, the four Essence crystals in his hand crumbled.

[<Bronze> Essence of Tier-1 Level 2 Mirko Havic, and Essences of Tier-1 Level 1 Dirk Ninburg, Leonard Weissmann, and Justin Black have been absorbed → +0.2 Strength, +0.1 Stamina, +0.3 Agility awarded]

There was one Bronze Essence crystal, while the others had been ordinary Tier-1 Essence crystals.

This was probably owed to the fact that the first Ascender he killed had advanced to Tier-1 with a Rare ancient path of advancement.

At least, that was what Dilan presumed to be the reason for one Essence crystal to be of the Bronze quality!

Dilan had yet to level up but he could not care about that for now.

His anger that targeted the entire Death Beatles gang was more than enough to switch his focus on finding a way to annihilate the gang rather than bothering to think about the large amount of Essence he required to level up!

Despite the anger that surged through his entire body, Dilan noticed one thing that astonished him quite a bit.

"Why am I not disgusted with myself? Not even the slightest bit...isn't that weird? Didn't I instinctively feel disgusted by the Ascenders because they absorbed the Essence of humans?"

Dilan's theory had been that he could instinctively perceive whether one killed and absorbed the Essence of humans or not.

However, this didn't seem to be the case, or at least it was not the entire truth because everything was perfectly normal when he absorbed their Essence crystals.

He had no time minding this either, so he picked up the corpses before throwing them to one side.

Afterward, he covered them with blankets before doing the same with the puddle of blood.

'It won't be necessary for me to clean up everything. As long as they don't notice me immediately, I will be fine.'

Dilan didn't feel the need to chalk out an elaborate plan to overpower his opponents.

He was sure that this would be over the top because a simple surprise attack was more than enough.

But instead of sitting idle and waiting restlessly for the Death Beatles gang, Dilan decided to examine his premises. Thus, he started to walk through the building.

There were only a few floors he had to take a look at. What he saw on his short trip that was wrapped up in less than an hour to finish was nothing special.

In fact, Dilan was quite disappointed because the only weapons he found were a Kobold's spear, a Gnomes maze, and some other Tierless Trash and Bronze weapons.

Because Dilan was curious about their lethality, he tried to inflict an injury on himself with the strongest weapon amongst them. Luckily, he was unscathed.

This allowed him to feel both reassured and a bit frustrated.

"By the looks of it, they have not received any treasures from the Gates but...why the hell is my body already resilient to Tierless Bronze weapons?! Do I really have to try injuring myself with the Gray Slayer to keep upgrading my Origin ability?"

The Gray Slayer was currently the strongest weapon Dilan's group possessed and even that weapon was not unparalleled.

Using some brute force, the Gray Slayer could still cut him. This was great but the force he had to use to create a small cut was still more than he expected.

'My Health stat is truly frightening.' Dilan could only smile wryly while shaking his head.

He was already at the peak of a Tier-1 existence in terms of his Health stat. This was the case despite his advance to Tier-1 having finished not too long ago as well.

However, even before he could start wondering just how powerful he would be once all of his stats were to reach their limit, Dilan heard several voices from below him.

He was currently on the first floor near the stairways. His plan had been to walk down and wait for the arrival of the Death Beatles gang.

But it looked like he didn't have to wait anymore, which was why he couldn't help but smile.

Slowly, Dilan walked towards the window that was on the floor directly above the old corporate building's entrance. He took a peek and his smile turned even brighter.

'All of them have advanced to Tier-1..they really did it!' Dilan thought, as a mixture of anger and a trace of excitement surged through his body.

Anger because he knew how the Ascenders below him had advanced to Tier-1 and excitement because Dilan was pretty sure that he was going to launch a massacre in a mere minute!

'Let the bloodbath begin!'

Chapter 139 Shikan plains

The Shikan plains were right next to Rian, and the mountainside where everything had begun for Dilan.

The plains were a huge area that covered more than 30 cities and hundreds of small villages.

In total, more than 100 million humans inhabited the Shikan plains before the Primordial Ascension.

Because there were so many humans, Dilan had already presumed that the situation might be even more dangerous than it was the case on Rian.

After all, Rian was only a border city to the Shikan plains while humans were highly sought after because of their Essence crystals' efficiency.

Even if mankind's stance against mutated animals, mythical monsters, and other creatures was already disadvantageous, once everyone was to understand that the Essence crystals of humans would never cease to provide status points, carnage would devour the continent, if not the entire planet.

That was something Dilan understood since the moment he was certain that the system considered every human as a single entity.

Crowded places were supposed to attract most monsters in the future. As such, one could either travel around in small groups of powerful Ascenders or be strong enough to eradicate all threats.

However, in that sense, Dilan was not sure whether the temple mentioned by Melanie could be considered a threat or an opportunity.

Melanie didn't know much about the temple she spoke about because she had only seen it from the top of one of the highest skyscrapers.

She had used a spyglass at that time, and could only decipher a few things, including two different races that seemed to be living in and around the temple.

The reason for Melanie to believe that they were other 'races' instead of ordinary monsters was that the two races socialized with each other and lived in a rather huge community.

They had begun to build their own town around the temple that manifested seemingly out of nowhere, just to keep expanding their territory further.

Melanie also spoke a little bit about the appearance of the two races, but the only thing she had been able to see from far away was the fact that one of the two races had a lion head, while the other race had the head of an eagle..

Despite that, they walked on two legs and had various traits that were similar to humans, which was another reason for Melanie to believe that they were races instead of monsters.

But even then, Dilan didn't think much about her information, especially because he had already faced intelligent monsters such as Kobolds, Krendels, Gnomes, Kobolds, and so on so this piece of news was not really surprising to him.

His unfocused eyes turned cold as he digested the information before he let out a deep sigh.

"Even if your information is somewhat useful, you still have to die!"

The moment Dilan's weak voice rang out, Gray Slayer had already been brandished.

The gray blade flashes in front of Melanie, slitting through her neck. She didn't feel any pain as Dilan gave her a quick death. There was only regret in her eyes as her sight blurred.

'How...did everything turn out like this?'

Even in her last thought, Melanie was unable to accept reality.

After all, she, Pyro, and the rest of the Death Beatles gang were destined to become the Emperors and Empresses of their own Empire...or so was it supposed to be.

But now all of them were dead, killed by a single individual, the being, who ought to become the true Emperor!

Dilan would have killed Melanie even if her information had been exceptionally useful.

She was simply too dangerous to be kept alive. Without a way to control her, Dilan would have faced the risk of her seeking revenge, and this was not something Dilan could accept.

'Well, even if she wouldn't have sought revenge, her path would have led her back to seek the Essence of innocent humans...' That was the only thing on Dilan's mind before he found himself lying in the corner of the room.

He was not sure how he found his way to the walls, but when his body slumped to the ground, Dilan's eyes closed involuntarily.

'It will be fine if I sleep...a few hours, right?' He could barely think before his mind shut itself off.

Falling into a deep slumber, Dilan slept until the sun disappeared behind the horizon.

Bright moonlight was shining through the windows of the former corporate building. It spilled into the room through the large windows where Dilan had caused carnage.

The crime scene looked even worse than before, only for a dead-tired young man to wake up from his well-deserved sleep.

He opened his drowsy eyes while trying to recall where he was and what had happened.

His memories were muddled and Dilan had difficulties remembering a few things.

Only a faint recollection of some information that Melanie had provided was left in his mind but that was not something Dilan was bothered about right now.

Rather, he looked at the corpses of more than 200 Tier-1 Ascenders with frustration, anger, and a trace of excitement.

Dilan was proud to have killed more than 200 Tier-1 Ascenders all by himself.

Despite feeling frustration and anger toward the fact that the 200 Tier-1 Ascenders had killed far more than a thousand human survivors, Dilan still felt excited.

He loathed himself for that and bit his lower lip until it started to bleed.

Only when he felt the pain did he regain his senses and got up from the ground.

When his gaze flitted to his equipment and other clothes, he saw that all of them were smeared with dried blood which made a feeling of disgust rise up from the pits of his stomach.

“Why am I suddenly disgusted by myself? Because I killed so many humans? No...I doubt that. They couldn’t even be considered humans, to begin with...”

Dilan was not sure why his body felt so weird right now. However, what he didn’t know was that his mind was still in a highly restricted state, and that his body was currently highly sensitive to all kinds of feelings.

Right now, he was feeling easily influenced by the surrounding atmosphere.

That was also why Dilan felt so disgusted as the atmosphere around him held the stench of death and blood.

Looking at the corpses, Dilan shuddered for a moment, only to feel that his left leg gave in.

He nearly collapsed on the ground and was barely able to get a hang of his body after struggling for a few seconds.

‘What is going on?’

Confusion spread through his mind. He was not sure what was happening to him right now but he felt extremely weak.

As he was not sure what was going on, Dilan felt the need to test out a few things.

Minutes passed as he stayed slumped on the ground while forcing his brain to work and only when Dilan began to understand what was going on did his expression turn grim.

“Was I pushed into a weakened state because I attained strength my body is not able to handle for a longer period?”

Despite possessing many abilities, which increased his strength only for a short period, the combined utilization of numerous abilities was something his body was not able to endure for too long.

In fact, because his body had yet to learn how to use mana perfectly, the use of Berserk Mana with the [Thunder Step] ability, [Bracing Pain], and so on made things not easier for Dilan.

Under normal circumstances, it would have been the best for him to slowly accustom his body to the sensation of every single ability, one after another.

But the battle against the Death Beatles gang forced Dilan to go all in.

He couldn't have postponed the fight against the Death Beatles gang either because their speed of advancement as a team had been way too fast.

Had Dilan not possessed a Divine occupation and numerous abilities that were capable of elevating his strength with their combined effects, he would have died today.

Dilan was also aware that he would have died if Pyro and his group would have been able to progress further and he would have arrived at their base after a day or two.

As such, he didn't regret having given his all to defeat the others.

The weakened state might be a little bit bothersome but it was just a little inconvenience.

With that in mind, he focused on getting his hand on the Essence crystals of the Tier-1 Ascenders.

Dilan couldn't allow wasting the Essence crystals, not only for himself but also for the innocent humans, who had been victims of the cruelty of the Death Beatles gang.

He thought about many things while collecting all Essence crystals, including the temple Melanie had spoken about.

"If the temples appeared two days ago, it should have been shortly after I advanced to Tier-1 and when the system notification reached everyone..."

Did this notification only reach humans on Milarn, or also beings from other planets?... Is that even possible?"

Dilan tried to make sense of the situation.

However, he had no idea about the temple's existence, if the two races were truly intelligent races, or simply monsters with higher sentience.

Once he figured that out, it would also be crucial to understand whether these two races were hostile to humans or if they might even try to form an alliance.

The latter would be great but Dilan was of the belief that the future would become far more complex than he was already apprehending.

But it was just when Dilan's thoughts grew worse that he saw something that attracted his attention.

"...what the hell is that?!"

Chapter 140 Bitter reality

After Dilan collected all Essence crystals, he found something near Pyro's corpse that attracted his attention.

Dilan reached out for a small bright red gleaming object. It was terrifyingly hot and increased the temperature in the immediate surrounding by several degrees.

But even if that would be enough to scare others, Dilan picked up the searing hot marble he had found.

“Just what is that...?”

Dilan was extremely confused. He couldn't absorb the marble and didn't dare to do something foolish such as consuming it, either.

He could clearly sense that it would burn him alive if he were to try swallowing the marble.

Burning from the inside out was not something Dilan wanted to ever feel in his life.

As such, he spent a few minutes calming his mind before his focus returned to the marble.

“This marble must have dropped from Pyro...but why?”.

Because the marble had been lying right next to Pyro's body, Dilan could be quite certain that it manifested after Pyro died.

There was also the low possibility that Pyro possessed the searing hot marble while he was alive but Dilan didn't believe so.

Somehow, he thought that Pyro wouldn't have died so easily if he were to be able to utilize the marble's powers, whatever they were, properly.

But that was only something his gut feeling suggested to him and it was not as if Dilan could be 100% sure.

“Is it because of the Origin ability? That's probably it.”

He nodded his head but quickly averted his focus once again.

There was no way for him to find out what exactly the marble could do. That meant Dilan was merely capable of storing the blazing marble away for now, which was also quite a hassle as it was hot enough to burn through ordinary clothes.

Fortunately, storing it worked after Dilan experimented with a few things for a while.

Afterward, he could focus on absorbing all Essence crystals which he had piled up in the center of the room.

There were only two special Essence crystals in the entire pile. One of them was Silver in color, while the other one was Golden!

A Golden Essence crystal!

It was the first time for Dilan to see such an Essence crystal and it was quite difficult for him to hide his shock.

'If I remember correctly that was Pyro's Essence crystal, right? But even if he picked an Extraordinary Ancient Path of Advancement, is that already enough to improve an Essence crystal's quality to such an extent?'

While Tier-1 Silver Essence crystals were already filled to the brim with highly potent Essence, the Golden Essence crystal he stared at was several times purer in terms of quality.

Not only was the Essence purer but there was also far more Essence compressed within the Golden Essence crystal.

'Is that also owed to Pyro's Origin ability?'

In the end, Dilan didn't know what requirements one had to meet to possess a higher-ranked Essence crystal.

If he were to be honest, it would be quite interesting to find out more about the Essence crystals' secrets.

But even if he were to know more about Essence crystals, it was not as if many things would change.

Dilan could always perceive if an opponent was too powerful for him to defeat, or if it was possible for him to fight against an opponent head-on.

For this special case, it didn't really matter whether his opponent was an ordinary Tier-1 monster at the peak of its capabilities, or a somewhat low-level Tier-1 Gold monster.

It was also the reason for Dilan to simply stop bothering about it as he absorbed the pile of Essence crystals in front of him.

[1 <Golden>, 1 <Silver>, 34 <Bronze>, and 167 Ordinary Tier-1 Essences have been absorbed→ +6.5 Strength, +3.1 Health, +2.8 Stamina, +5.4 Agility, +8.2 Mana]

[Essence pool has been filled. Host reached level 1(Tier-1)! +1.0 Status points can be allocated!]

[Essence pool has been filled. Host reached level 2(Tier-1)! +1.0 Status points can be allocated!]

Seeing how much his stats had been boosted, Dilan could clearly understand how beneficial it was to hunt down humans.

For a moment, he even forgot the fact that he had finally leveled up, twice at that! In fact, he was close to leveling up a third time as his Essence pool was already filled to 80%.

But that was not important right now!

Due to the Blessed Curse [Will of the Primordial] Dilan would only receive a tenth of the status other Ascenders received by absorbing Essence crystals, yet, the status points he gained just now exceeded 25 Units!

That meant if a single individual were to kill 200 Tier-1 humans Ascenders, they would receive over 250 status points!

Contrary to monsters, human Ascenders seemed to provide fewer status points per individual but the fact that each of them provided status points made up for this.

Chills ran down Dilan's spine as he thought about the possibility of humans hunting down their own kind just to earn status points as quickly as possible.

'Well, under normal circumstances, it shouldn't be possible for anyone to hunt 200 Tier-1 Ascenders while being a low-levelled Tier-1 Ascender by oneself. The advantages I have simply exceed the norm, making it a rare occurrence...'

Dilan didn't want to think too highly about himself. This was simply useless and would only make him overconfident. Thus, he began thinking about a few more points.

'For now, everyone's combat experience, and proficiency with abilities is low as well. That is also why it's possible for us to advance so quickly... At Tier-1, monsters are slightly more cunning and intelligent compared to those at Tier-0.

While monsters would gain intelligence, human Ascenders would gain more experience with mana, fighting, and abilities the further they ascended, and the more often they fought while risking their life...

That means the difficulty level would steadily increase the higher one advanced... and humans would be considered the best resources for monsters...and other Ascenders to gain strength."

Dilan could already imagine communities that numbered in the thousands and would be considered a perfect target to be hunted down.

He knew that Tier-0 Essence crystals were less useful for Tier-1 existences but even then, they never lost their entire value.

If a single powerful monster or human Ascender would be capable of hunting and annihilating entire human communities, their strength would increase by leaps and bounds.

This thought was frightening, even more so because Dilan had no idea how the situation outside Rian looked like.

The only thing he knew was that a temple in which two races lived was nearby, and that was certainly not something he was happy about...

Scratching the back of his head, he thought in frustration.

"What should I do?"