

Warlord 151

Chapter 152 Flood of Darkness

Several hours passed in the blink of an eye. Not a single Tierless Ascender had even the slightest bit of stamina left to move.

But even if they were incapable of moving and were gasping for breath, they were overjoyed.

“Oh my god...A Rare occupation appeared as a new Ancient Path of Advancement!”

At first, it had only been one Ascender who was fortunate enough to be able to choose a Rare Ancient Path of Advancement to advance to Tier-1 but after some time had passed the others received the same opportunity.

Some even obtained the same occupation, which Dilan believed to be due to the fact that the Ascenders met the conditions to advance with the said Rare Ancient Path of Advancement!

It was great that so many Ascenders had the choice to pick a rare occupation as it would increase their strength by leaps and bounds once they advanced.

As they had absorbed enough Essence and Status points, the Ascenders weren't missing out on much to initiate their ascension, with high stats at that.

“They'll be able to fight low-leveled Bronze monsters once they advance.” Dilan figured with a faint smile on his face.

Kathrine just nodded her head, while sweat trickled down her cheeks. She stood next to Dilan, who was extremely calm and not even the slightest bit exhausted.

Even if Dilan had not fought many monsters actively, he had defeated every single Bronze Tier-1 monster they encountered so far..

Kathrine was sure that she would be able to defeat them by herself but Dilan ignored her when she spoke about finishing off all of them by herself.

Dilan needed the Bronze Essence crystals of Tier-1 monsters, which was why he couldn't care less if Kathrine was confident in defeating them or not.

It was already midnight on Milarn and most survivors were sound asleep while Dilan, Kathrine, and the other Ascenders reached the deeper parts of the Krendel's Underground Valley.

Because they were not in the Rian mountainside hospital, they were oblivious to the incident that was currently underway in the hospital.

Something huge was happening; something that could be considered the reaction of the Universe's Faith that had appeared on Milarn.

Oblivious to the incident that was just happening on Milarn, Dilan and the others were far away from the hospital to hear the roars, squeals and footsteps of thousands of mutated animals that emerged from within the mountainside's forest.

Hundreds of old trees were destroyed as the mutated animals stampeded through them. It was almost as if they couldn't see the trees or didn't care what trampled beneath their feet.

They were scared beyond means and were simply running over everything that stood in their way, just to keep increasing the distance from the mountain.

Something within the mountain scared them, something that didn't allow them to stay inside the mountain fearing that they would die at any moment.

Upon hearing the rumbling of thousands of mutated animals, mythical beasts, and other monsters, everyone inside the Rian mountainside hospital was dragged out of their sleep.

Not a single survivor felt safe inside the hospital after hearing the rumbling footsteps and growls of the monsters. The majority of weak-willed survivors were not able to endure the pressure building up due to the horde of powerful beings that rushed past the hospital.

They slumped to the ground and stayed there, lying motionless. The remaining survivor, who didn't collapse, felt that the slightest movement would expose them to the monsters, giving away their hiding spot for the monsters to approach and attack them.

A deep fear struck their minds, preventing even Williams, Xenia, and the rest of his people from doing anything.

Nobody dared to move a muscle and they tried standing like a statue, forcing themselves to not even breathe until their breath was taken away.

Gasping for air after an entire minute of utter silence had passed within the hospital, the first survivors dared to get up from their bed, or the ground they had fallen to in shock.

The survivors realized true terror only when they had approached the windows that were the closest to them.

In the darkness that was barely illuminated by the weak light of the moon, they couldn't see much.

However, the moving outlines in the dark night of seemingly ordinary midnight made it seem as if a flood of darkness was rushing towards the hospital.

Parts of the flood brushed past the hospital to enter the outskirts of Rian, while the remaining flood either reached the Shikan plains or collided with the Rian mountainside hospital's walls.

At first, it looked like the hospital's walls were strong enough to endure the impact of several smaller and larger animals, who didn't even notice that they were running straight into an obstacle. However, it was only when a group of boars that were three times the size of ordinary boars collided with the hospital's building that the walls crumbled.

Nobody was able to sense this at first because the hospital's walls that were the furthest away from the survivor's shelter were affected.

It had been at the tower across their tower, which was quite reassuring because there were more than enough additional defensive measures the survivors had installed for the worst-case scenario.

Thus, when Williams and the others noticed what had just happened, their shock was quickly wiped away.

“They are not even trying to attack us, they’re just fleeing... must be a mass relocation caused by fear about something that emerged in the mountain...”

William’s face was grave, his expression filled with frustration and annoyance about the unknown danger in the mountain. The flood of the fleeing monsters stopped after merely ten minutes had passed.

More than ten thousand mutated animals and other beings had passed by the Rian mountainside hospital. Meanwhile, only two walls collapsed, but luckily both were of the farthest tower.

The damage was far less than what they had expected but that was not something Williams could be truly happy about.

Before the appearance of the flood of monsters everyone had been dead-tired. Almost every single survivor had worked hard throughout the day.

But even if they had been dead-tired before, right now, nobody felt like returning to sleep.

Williams and his group had to pay their entire attention to calming the masses and this was much harder than one could think.

Too many survivors had been traumatized by the horror that was unleashed upon them with the advent of the Primordial Ascension.

Every change that occurred around them frightened the already scared survivors.

After having calmed down a bit from the terrifying events of the last two weeks, the survivors had begun to adapt to their new way of living and settle down.

Yet, right now with the occurrence of another horrifying event, the survivors were once again desperate and their mind was in chaos.

That made things even more difficult for Williams and the others.

However, the worst was the fact that not even Williams was able to stay unaffected after witnessing the flood of monsters.

Nobody had been able to see everything outside the hospital clearly but what Williams had been able to perceive was more than enough to shock even Dilan.

After all, there had been existences amongst the escaping monsters that had already attained the prowess of Tier-2!

The rank alone was terrifying, but the most confusing factor was that existence with the combat prowess at Tier-2 was running away for their lives and trying to put as much distance between themselves and the mountain!!

‘What the hell is inside this fucking mountainside? Just what is going on? Did something enter the mountainside, or did something about it change?’

Numerous questions squirmed through his mind, but there was not a single answer. Nothing pointed out the truth of what happened just now, or what might happen in the future.

Meanwhile, as Williams was bothered about the incident that had just happened, Dilan, Kathrine, and the few Ascenders, who were by their side at the Krendel's Underground valley, couldn't help but feel astonished.

They had reached the deepest parts of the mineral cave's tunnel and had entered a brightly illuminated room filled with numerous Lumina crystals.

However, that was not everything. Rather, it was just a means to highlight the thing they found in the center of the small cavern hall.

The corners of Dilan's mouth twitched as a single question swept through his mind.

"Is that edible?"

Chapter 153 Plant

Dilan's whole attention was on the small plant in the center of the small cavern hall.

The plant didn't look anything special. It was gray in color, had rough leaves, and didn't even exceed 30 centimeters in height.

Just by looking at the plant, one wouldn't think that it could be something special.

But by looking at the small egg-shaped fruits that lay right next to the plant, and were connected to it by grayish vines, Dilan was able to tell that the plant was everything but ordinary.

The egg-shaped fruits looked just like stones. They felt quite hard as well. Dilan did not just look at them but also touched them.

The fruits looked, felt and even smelt like stones.

If Dilan wouldn't be able to perceive the strong and penetrative sensation of compressed mana from the stones, he would think that they were ordinary stones.

However, the more he looked at them and the more he focused on only one of the three fruits, the more Dilan grew interested.

Dilan used some force and quickly noticed that he could squish the fruits once he used nearly half of his entire strength.

'So you need a Strength stat of more than 15 to barely tear open the fruit?'

He was slightly astonished but didn't say anything out loud. Meanwhile, Kathrine and the others were simply staring at him. All of them were quite exhausted and didn't really feel like raking their mind to figure out what Dilan was doing.

In their opinion, Dilan knew what he was doing and he wouldn't do anything reckless without thinking about the consequences of his action..

But it was exactly this thought that caused everyone to look at Dilan in shock when he bit into one of the fruits. There was no hesitation in his move and one of the three fruits disappeared in his mouth after a mere second.

Everyone was baffled by what Dilan had just done. Nobody could understand why Dilan was suddenly acting so recklessly.

The juices of the unknown fruit that may as well be poisonous, trickled down the corners of his mouth.

Meanwhile, Dilan was just smiling as the compressed energy of the fruit he had just consumed was released within his body.

His entire being was invigorated at once. The intensity of his invigoration was potent enough to be sensed by everyone else.

Some Ascenders were extremely worried about this and feared that Dilan might explode.

At first, Kathrine had also been worried about Dilan because he had simply eaten the fruit of the unknown plant without a second thought.

This was highly risky and certainly not something one should do.

After all, from childhood, every single person is taught to not eat something you found lying around somewhere as the most basic rule. That rule was even more important after the Primordial Ascension because one couldn't tell whether a fruit had mutated, and turned poisonous or not.

But Dilan hadn't been bothered about what might happen to him. He was immune to most types of poison, as well as zombification, but that was not all.

There was still his Origin ability and his terrifyingly high Health stat!

"Mira should take a look at this. Maybe her [Green Finger] will help us grow plants similar to this one?" Dilan mumbled all of a sudden while touching his skin as if it was some sort of a mythical object.

Kathrine had no idea what Dilan was doing, or what was going on with him. The other Ascenders were even more confused about Dilan's behavior.

Their opinion of Dilan kept changing, which further intensified when he grasped the Gray Slayer to cut himself.

Some Ascenders closed their eyes instinctively when they witnessed how sharp the gray saber was.

It had been sharp enough to cut through the bones of a Bronze Tier-1 monster, not just their skin and flesh...but also their bones!!

That was why the said Ascenders thought that Dilan might have gone insane and that he was about to cut off his arm.

However, when they didn't hear a pained groan, or the sound of blood trickling on the ground, the Ascenders opened their eyes once again.

Their attention flicked to the part of Dilan's arm, which he had cut. Yet, instead of finding a deep cut that revealed his flesh and bones, they saw that there was merely a tiny scratch. It was not even bleeding!

Without even realizing it, some Ascenders approached Dilan to take a closer look at what was going on.

They could swear to have seen Dilan cutting himself. What was appalling was that he had also used quite some force to cut himself.

But even then, the worst that happened to him was a mere scratch, astonishing not only the other Ascenders and Kathrine but even more so Dilan.

He smiled weirdly while looking at his skin. Dilan always had fair but slightly toned skin. However, now it almost looked like a faint and almost untraceable grayish layer covered his skin.

Even by looking at him intently, one was not able to detect a difference in Dilan's skin color. Only if one were to know about what was truly going on was it possible to perceive the change in Dilan's appearance.

Clenching his fists, he smiled faintly. He felt that his strength hadn't lessened by even a fraction. It was, in fact, just that his skin underwent a change and nothing else.

That was also why he felt like figuring out what had happened, which was why his attention turned to the notifications he had received.

[By devouring the Stonemonkey Devial fruit host gained Special Trait <Stone Skin>]

[[Stone Skin]<Special Trait>

In order to kill you, your opponents have to pierce through your defenses. Host will be armed with an unparalleled defense, and killing him or her will become a near-impossible task to attain.

Skin will be toughened until even the hardest stones in the universe paled in comparison!

The stronger the host's Health stat the higher the potency of Stone Skin!]

There were two more Stonemonkey Devial fruits lying on the ground and Dilan couldn't help but peer at them with wide eyes.

'A fruit that grants a special trait...what the hell!'

To say that Dilan was merely astonished was an understatement. He was utterly shocked because the existence of the Stonemonkey Devial fruit was something beyond his comprehension.

Dilan had predicted that some mutations would strengthen all types of plants but he would have never imagined that special trait granting plants would exist.

"Mira wanted to choose a gardening occupation, right?"

Flicking his head in Kathrine's direction all of a sudden, Dilan asked a question that reached her a mere moment later.

For a moment Kathrine was baffled. She had clearly heard the excitement in his voice and was able to see the bright gleam in his eyes. It was obvious that Dilan was exhilarated right now!

After she regained her composure, Kathrine just nodded her head after recalling what the youngest nurse in their group had said.

She only remembered that because her memory was quite decent, and Kathrine had never paid much attention to the young nurse.

However, when she saw that Dilan sighed in relief, while the tension in his body had been released, she couldn't help but be confused.

'Is Mira that important?'

Kathrine had yet to understand the true value behind the Stonemonkey Devial fruit and how useful Mira could become as long as she was able to grow the Stonemonkey Devial plant, which was the name Dilan gave to the small and inconspicuous plant!

Stone Skin might not provide any additional status points or an effect such as Bearer of Pain but it was more than just a little bit exceptional.

This was even more so the case for Dilan because his Health stat was bound to stay his highest stat.

With [Kirak's Vassal] as his occupation and the Origin ability [Regeneration] his Health stat would only increase, which was why Stone Skin seemed to be perfect for him.

It was almost as if it had been customized for Dilan and other Ascenders, who focused on high Health stats!

Some Ascenders with a low Health stat might not even notice the changes occurring in their body when consuming the Stonemonkey Devial fruit. It would have no use for them as long as their Health stat remained low and within the natural threshold of their Tier!

As long as Dilan found candidates, who could make use of the Stonemonkey Devial fruit efficiently, he might as well give it to them without demanding anything in return.

However, that was only something he would dare to do if Mira was capable of taking care of the Stonemonkey Devial plant.

Otherwise, he would have to use the Stonemonkey Devial fruit in a different way. After all, the fruits' value exceeded every single treasure they possessed by far and large!

"Let's rest for half an hour. Afterward, we can return with some forging ingredients!"

That being said, Dilan turned to the only graphite vein they had come across until now before he started to mine it.

Meanwhile, the Ascenders rested for a bit longer than they had initially planned before getting up from the ground when they saw that Dilan was frantically mining the graphite vein.

"...Dilan? Do you even know what you are doing?"

Even if Kathrine didn't want to sound rude, she was confused by his sudden change in behavior. Her eyes fell on Dilan's dirt-smudged face as he smiled oddly and answered confidently.

"Actually, I have no idea!"

Chapter 155 Who wants to die?

Even if it was a hassle, Dilan had to catch up on some sleep after he received all the necessary reports to be up to date.

He had been awake way too long and had not even eaten much for the last two days.

The tasks at hand were stockpiling but that was not the worst as Dilan was not sure about a solution to some of these tasks.

Too many uncertain factors made things far more difficult than expected.

The mysterious Sun temple in the Shikan plains and the unknown happenings in the mountainside behind the hospital was already frustrating enough as each danger prevented him from starting research about the other dangers.

But as if that was not enough the outskirts of Rian were once again filled with dangers as hundreds of monsters had chosen to remain within the city.

Even with all the trouble, Dilan had to sleep a few hours before he ate his fill by gobbling down several plates of food in the morning.

It was only 8 am when he was ready to work once again as he was full of energy.

'I really needed these few hours of sleep!'

Dilan had noticed that he didn't need much sleep or rest anymore. At least, it was much less than before, when he had been overly exhausted after a few fights..

He attributed this to the advantages of advancing to Tier-1, and that mana kept him energized.

In the end, the actual reason didn't really matter to Dilan because he was more focused on other things.

"The Ascenders, who were with us, have completed their ascension to Tier-1, right?"

He spoke to Kathrine, who was sitting around a table with the others. Dilan had already been prepared to go out, hunt several Silver Tier-1 monsters, and provide Old Jeff with all the resources he required to forge the modified Serpentine Blade.

"Yes, all of them have advanced to Tier-1 with Rare occupations. So you don't need to worry about the Krendel's Underground Valley. We will keep it in mind to mine enough materials so that Old Jeff can focus on forging!"

Kathrine understood what Dilan wanted to know which was why she answered straightforwardly. He had other things to do, so it was good to know that Kathrine and others were able to take charge of some tasks.

Williams, Xenia, Sven, and the others looked at him with a reassuring smile.

They were not confident about solving all the issues that had emerged all of a sudden. These troublesome issues were too much for even Williams to handle.

He was not confident in defeating an existence, whose strength rivaled the peak of Tier-1. Meanwhile, Dilan had defeated the cruel Death Beatles gang single-handedly and returned home without a scratch!

It was only fortunate that Dilan was there, giving all of them the reassurance that everything would be fine.

After all, they were certain that he would give his best to make sure that all of them would survive.

They were also sure that he wouldn't give up until the Grim Reaper himself would reap his life.

The mere thought of death reaping Dilan's life made most leaders under him smile weirdly.

This behavior was mostly owed to Dilan's odd survivability because even death might not be able to end him for good!

"In four days, I want all towers to be cleared. Leave a few low-leveled zombies for newcomers behind so that we will get our hands on more abilities. I want everyone to work hard, even the laziest survivors."

Dilan's expressions and words were overflowing with seriousness when he spoke. He couldn't care less about the lazy survivors, however, the circumstances demanded everyone to give their utmost so that the entire group would survive the chaos that was about to descend.

That being said, Dilan took a deep breath as he readied himself mentally to enter the new dangers of Rian's outskirts.

"I'll be back tonight. Nobody is allowed to die, understood?"

Everyone nodded at Dilan's order. They smiled gently at his words, only to hear his faint mumbling when he left the cafeteria,

"Having others by my side might not be that bad..."

A faint smile appeared on Dilan's lips as he turned to the entrance of the hospital. The leaders of the sub-units had been looking at Dilan and were thus able to see his smile.

Oddly enough, Oliver grasped his chest, and clenched his hand into a fist, while squeezing the clothes he was holding in the other.

Ailee could only look at Dilan's retreating figure with a weird expression, not sure what to think about what she had just heard.

On the other hand, Yvonne appeared next to Kathrine with a similar, complex expression as her sister.

"Why am I feeling so sad right now?" Kathrine's voice reached those around her without her realizing that she had spoken out loud.

But the others could only nod their heads as they felt a similar emotion.

Dilan's voice had been filled with doubt, confusion, and a distinct sensation of pain when he had been mumbling to himself.

His eyes had also been filled with loneliness and uncertainty that only someone, who had been abandoned or severely mistreated could understand.

Yet, even if most of the Sub-Unit leaders were not able to understand Dilan's gaze and the emotions in his voice, their subconscious reacted accordingly.

"To be as strong as Dilan, he must have faced a lot in his past...even death may not be scary anymore..."

Of course, that was bullshit.

Maybe Dilan had appeared to be unbothered by death before the Primordial Ascension occurred.

However, deep within his conscience, Dilan had never wanted to die, otherwise, he would have ended his life just like his sister's mother did all those years ago.

She had been unable to endure all the pain and suffering she had to go through just to stay alive.

Meanwhile, Dilan had accepted every single beating without voicing out a single complaint. He had never thought about killing himself either, and it was just his mind that made him think as if it was not important whether he was alive or not.

But that was different right now.

He wanted to be alive and fight for his own freedom.

With the necessary means to achieve everything he wanted to do, the only thing that mattered in the New World of Milarn was strength!

The strong ruled over the weak, and the weak could only accept their fate or attempt to become stronger as well.

That mindset allowed Dilan to become much stronger, and powerful enough to lead a small group of humans. However, his current strength was far from enough, which was why Dilan had left the hospital to do two things at the same time.

First, he was ready to set his life on the line to procure a total of 10 Silver Tier-1 Essence crystals...and second, Dilan was ready to save the remaining survivors, who had been able to survive 16 long days filled with struggle, pain and death lurking around them!

Chapter 156 Zoo?

Gathering ten Silver Tier-1 Essence crystals was easier said than done.

Dilan had not expected Williams' report about the mass of monsters to be so incorrect.

"There are so many powerful monsters and only some mutated animals...Gates?"

He presumed that there should be a few Gates in the mountain's range, otherwise the high number of Tier-1 monsters wouldn't make much sense.

Less than a minute after he had left the hospital, Dilan encountered a group of Bisons. But they hadn't been ordinary Bison as their legs were at least twice as broad and sturdy as that of ordinary bison, allowing them to live in the mountains.

Their horns were gray in color while their hair had a reddish-brown tone. Dilan could tell that they had emerged from a Gate and that they didn't originate from Milarn.

However, that hadn't been important in his fight against them. They were extremely fast, powerful, and endurable.

The Gray Slayer was barely able to cut through their hide. This fact made Dilan realize once again that a powerful and razor-sharp weapon was extremely important to fight them.

Yet, even more important was the proper utilization of his abilities, which was exactly what Dilan had done.

Excited to fight powerful opponents right off the bat, he quickly activated the [Thunder Step] ability..

It created a thunderous noise but that was not further problematic as the surrounding was already filled with the sounds of fighting monsters that growled and shrieked.

The sound of thunder would get drowned in the melee and wouldn't attract the attention of monsters because of this.

Dilan's Agility surpassed the Mountain Bisons' Agility after [Thunder Step] had been activated. However, he still hadn't thought about utilizing his high speed to evade facing the Mountain Bisons' head-on.

It was the complete opposite that happened as he chose to face his opponents directly. He shot toward them, enraging the already frustrated Mountain Bisons that were less than six in number.

They had been separated from their group due to the incident that had occurred within the mountain.

The Mountain Bisons should be searching for their herd but instead of doing so they chose to release their pent-up frustration at Dilan, the being, who seemed to be powerful enough to provide them some Essence to become stronger after they killed him!

What Dilan didn't know was that his scent and aura were a clear indicator that he was not only powerful but that his Essence crystal was special.

Even if Dilan were to know this, he wouldn't be able to change anything about it. However, at least, he would have been able to understand why he was bound to face numerous monsters in the future.

After all, he was a treasure trove for their advancement!

But during the fight against the Mountain Bisons, Dilan had not noticed anything like that. It had been slightly weird for him to be attacked by a herd right off the bat but he was also hopeful that the Bisons might be Silver Tier-1 monsters.

Using [Aegis' Shield] to block and forcefully avert the Mountain Bisons' path, Dilan shot past the shield before stabbing the Gray Slayer in the abdomen of the closest Mountain Bison.

Dilan had to use his whole strength to cut through the Bison's hide but the result was satisfying.

With a little bit of mana circulating through the Gray Slayer, its sharpness was artificially increased.

This allowed Dilan to kill the first Bison without too much of an issue.

Following the death of the first Bison, Dilan focused on using the memories and experiences that had been imprinted in his mind.

Fighting with the said memories and experience, which he had received from the [True Weapon Specialist] ability, Dilan's actions were decisive, ruthless, and barely without wasted movements.

He was a purple flash that shot over the ground and inflicted numerous injuries to the Mountain Bisons around him. Making use of the Mountain Bisons' low flexibility and long turning circle, Dilan was not even required to activate [Mana Slash] or his gloves' ability [Momentary Strengthening] to end the remaining Mountain Bisons.

The 30-second duration of [Aegis' Shield] was barely used up when the battle finished, and Dilan still felt fully energized.

His eyes gleamed brightly, and blood trickled down the saber in his hand. He breathed out air that turned into the white fog the moment it left his mouth.

It was cold outside but Dilan didn't notice any of that.

His heart was beating wildly and he was excited to fight some powerful monsters once again. One could even say that he had missed fighting with his life on the line, the sight of blood, and the sensation of knowing that he was able to decide over the life and death of other existences.

Somehow, it was almost as if his sanity went for a toss whenever his excitement overwhelmed him.

Fortunately, he was able to get a hang of himself as his rational mind suppressed his desires.

'If only I had a storage device...'

Dilan was a little bit sad to leave the Mountain Bisons' corpses behind because their average weight was at least 700 kilograms.

It was a shame to leave so much precious food and meat by not taking it with him but Dilan also knew that he could carry all of them back without leaving traces behind which led to the hospital.

This was a little bit frustrating but not something he could change right now.

The current situation had already gotten out of hand, after all. He shouldn't try things that could worsen the survivor's condition.

That was also why Dilan had merely collected the Bisons' horns and their Essence crystals before he decided to keep going further.

'Only Bronze?'

Dilan had hoped for the Bison's Essence crystal to be Silver but luck hadn't been on his side as they were merely Bronze Essence crystals.

Thus, Dilan had absorbed three Bronze Tier-1 Essence crystals of the Mountain Bisons to gain some stats and the necessary essence to fill his Essence pool once again.

[Three <Bronze> Essences of Tier-1 Level 8 Kirkan Bisons have been absorbed→ +0.6 Strength, +0.2 Health]

[Essence pool has been filled. Host reached Level 3(Tier-1)! +1.0 Status points can be allocated!]

When he finished absorbing the Essence crystals Dilan merely smiled dryly.

‘The level up provides more status points than absorbing three Bronze Tier-1 Essence crystals...’

The Blessed Curse [Will of the Primordial] clearly showed how powerful it was. Unfortunately, it was not in Dilan’s favor but that was something he could live with.

While he stored the other Bronze Tier-1 Essence crystals in his backpack, Dilan walked past the corpses to enter the city’s outskirts.

The Rian mountainside hospital’s location could be considered to be slightly outside the city, despite some believing that it was the same area.

In the end, this didn’t really matter because Dilan had to walk down a small street before he reached one of the city’s main streets.

Contrary to the deserted street that he had expected, it was bustling, not with living humans but with all kinds of monsters.

Many were fighting, while others attempted to avoid fights by all means. The weak fled at the sight of powerful predators, who attempted to fight the equally strong herbivores.

Dilan didn’t reveal himself either. Instead, he was trying to hide in order to find sole monsters, who gave a wide berth to the fights of other monsters.

They were the most likely to be Silver Tier-1 monsters, which was what Dilan was searching for.

Unfortunately, finding prey to hunt was far more difficult than expected.

“Did Rian turn into a Zoo or what?!? Where the hell is so many different types of monsters coming from?? Are those monsters really from a few Gates, there are so many different monsters...just how is this possible?”

Chapter 157 Silver Wolf pack

After his encounter with a small group of Mountain Bisons, Dilan grew wary of the monsters, who had come out of the mountain’s forest.

There was no need for him to act hastily and he would rather watch the fights of monsters and assassinate them when the opportunity was ripe than being assassinated while fighting a batch of monsters.

His Mana recuperated slowly without Dilan’s active support to accelerate the procedure. Thus, he was not willing to join a fight until he was in his peak form either.

He wanted to find Silver Tier-1 monsters, not those Bronze monsters.

Their value was much lower in Dilan's eyes which meant that he didn't have to endanger his life while facing them.

Dilan was excited to keep fighting and facing powerful opponents, however, there was also the need to pay attention to his actions.

It would be disadvantageous if he were to act like a brickhead, and simply attack monsters without caring about the aftermath, just because he wanted to, at that.

Time passed slowly and Dilan found something that attracted his interest. There were at least ten corpses of two different types of monsters in front of Dilan.

At first, there were three bodies of silver-furred wolves. Their height was at least 1.5 meters which were not to be underestimated.

With a single pounce, they would be able to tear open the chest of an ordinary Tier-1 Ascender by making use of their sharp claws and teeth.

Meanwhile, the second type of body he found belonged to a monster that seemed to be a cross between a deer and a Bear..

Dilan was not sure if that was correct what he saw but their bodies were comparable to a brown bear, just that their head was that of a deer.

It looked so grotesque that Dilan was lost for words for a few seconds.

But after he got hang of his emotions a bright smile emerged on his face.

'They were killed not too long ago!'

Warm blood was still oozing out of the wounds on the bodies of both the Silver furred wolves and the Deer-Bears. Not even their Essence crystals had been collected yet.

This intrigued Dilan quite a bit. Nonetheless, the first thing he did was to take a look at his surroundings to find out where the remaining wolves and Deer-Bears were located.

A pack of wolves should have more than three members and there were signs hinting that the fight had continued even after these deaths.

Thus, only after he saw that there were no monsters around him, did he calm down enough to focus on collecting the monster's Essence crystals.

They might not have much of direct use for Dilan but the presence of the corpses was more than enough for him to smile brightly.

"As expected!" He exclaimed while holding the Silver Tier-1 Essence crystal of the Silver Wolf in his hand.

All three Silver Wolves possessed a Silver Essence crystal, while the Deer-Bears had Bronze Essence crystals.

This was simply too great which was why Dilan's mood improved considerably, despite the start of a heavy snowstorm.

It prevented him from pursuing his mission. His mood had plummeted earlier for a moment when the snowstorm had begun but now he was excited once again.

With excitement filling his head and the desire to fight against the pack of Silver Wolves, Dilan followed the signs that led him to a rather large battlefield.

Not a single monster in the proximity of the large street dared to be in the way of the Silver Wolf pack as they pounced at the Deer-Bears.

The number of the deer bear herd was close to 50 but nearly all of them had already been injured.

On the other hand, there were only six Silver Wolves, who were facing all these Deer-Bears.

The Deer-Bears were not afraid of fighting back. Rather, they seemed to be infuriated to have been chosen as prey by the Silver Wolves.

Despite being half deers, which were said to have no combat power, they were also half bears, with razor-sharp claws.

That was more than enough for them to use their numerical advantage in order to fight the six Silver Wolves.

Dilan's eyes widened in excitement when he saw that the Deer-Bears surrounded the six Silver Wolves, only for two words to escape his mouth inadvertently.

"Big Mistake"

It was a big mistake for the Deer-Bears to think that it was possible to surround and overwhelm the Silver Wolves just like that.

They wouldn't stay in the circle and give in easily which was proved correct as only a second later, they broke out.

With a rapid speed that was much higher than even Dilan's the six Silver Wolves shot out to six different directions.

It was as if they had chosen to split up their group to take care of all the Deer-Bears as quickly as possible.

They didn't care about the injuries they had sustained. It was fine as long as they would survive.

Dilan felt that their fighting style was not influenced by the intellect but it was still much better than the Deer-Bears' actions.

Despite having separated, the Deer-Bears were now trying to team up with each other.

However, that was not possible anymore as the Silver Wolves pounced at one Deer-Bear, tearing it apart before breaking out of the encirclement.

All of a sudden, the Silver Wolves switched their attention to another group of Deer-Bears, which they decided to attack.

Without halting in their tracks and without being forced to turn around to attack their own group, the Silver Wolves attacked one of the groups their brethren had already attacked.

This allowed them to maintain high speed without slowing down too much.

Dilan felt that his earlier conclusion might have been a little bit hasty because the Silver Wolves coordinated quite well with each other.

'Is all of that because of this one?'

Dilan's eyes followed a particular Silver Wolf. It was greater than 2 meters in height and thus much bigger than its brethren. Its strength was also higher even if it was not drastically high.

However, what Dilan presumed was that its intellect was higher than the other Silver Wolves as he could see how it moved its head to observe and assess the situation around itself all the time.

The cooperation created by the Silver Wolf leader was something Dilan looked forward to. He wanted to fight the Silver Wolf as well.

His hands were itching for a battle and the desire in his eyes clearly showed.

He was just waiting for the perfect moment to assassinate the monster using [Thunder Step] and [Gale] in a specific combination to kill the Silver Wolf Leader in an instant.

Unfortunately, that would take some time because the Silver Wolves were not able to easily suppress all the Deer-Bears.

But that was only obvious because their numbers were nearly ten times that of the Silver Wolves!

Dilan presumed that their fight would last, at least ten more minutes.

However, Dilan's plan was bound to be shattered, which he realized the moment he felt an ominous feeling crawling up his spine.

All of a sudden, a terrifying roar filled Rian's outskirts and echoed through the vast open area, the winds helping it reach a bigger area. The Deer-Bears, which had already been attacked, flinched at that sound.

However, they were not the only ones, who had flinched. Even the Silver Wolf leader looked over to the direction of the roar, worry gleaming in its eyes.

But that was not all because even Dilan was not able to remain unfazed when he heard the roar as his head flicked over as well.

"Oh! That will be interesting!" Dilan exclaimed, his eyes gleaming brightly.

He was excited about the change that was about to unravel itself and ready to reap all the gains the moment all the beasts would be exhausted.

And this was bound to happen with the interference of the being, which had appeared seemingly out of nowhere!

Chapter 160 Tier-1 ability?

Dilan kept looking around but he couldn't find the Blue Tiger.

'How frustrating...I didn't even warm up properly...'

Sing deeply, he turned back to the monster corpses around him. There were far more corpses than he first assumed.

Thus, Dilan's sour mood improved considerably.

He saw a few monsters in his surroundings but not a single one dared to approach him which wasn't all that surprising.

There was no other Silver Tier-1 monster, which was why the bloody presence he radiated was more than enough to keep the monsters away from him.

They might desire to get hold of some Essence crystals but the little intelligence they had already gained was enough to make them understand that it was suicidal to approach the corpses, let alone the Ascender in the center of the battlefield.

When he calmed down a little bit, Dilan activated [Regeneration] using 10 Units of Mana to create the strongest possible effect.

After he activated his Origin ability, the energy that spread through Dilan caused him to sigh in relief.

It was the first time for him to activate his Origin ability using 10 Units of Mana, so the effect astonished him. His body, which was prepared to continue fighting calmed down and a soothing sensation spread through every inch of his body.

Not a single cell in his body was left out, telling Dilan that he would recuperate the drained Life force quickly.

'Even though I know I shouldn't play around with [Bearer of Pain], converting Life force to Mana is simply too advantageous...'

Dilan's mind felt weak after having used so many abilities one after another, followed by making use of his occupation's special trait to replenish his mana.

All this back and forth between replenishing Mana and recuperating his Life force was not only taxing for his body but also his mind.

That was why Dilan could only smile faintly when he began to start with the dirty work of pulling the Essence crystals out of the monster's corpses.

There was no need for him to be vigilant of his surroundings because no monster dared to attack him but Dilan was careful nonetheless.

A monster similar to the Blue Tiger could always appear out of nowhere and Dilan didn't plan to let such monsters take advantage of his unawareness.

Around half an hour passed before Dilan was left standing in front of the Silver Wolf leader once again.

“The claws and fangs of Tier-1 monsters are certainly better than Jadetite and Silver Iron ore, so I should collect them as well...”

He might not be able to store the corpses, but his backpack had more than enough storage space to collect the Silver Wolves’ claws and fangs.

It might not be enough to store the Deer-Bears’ razor-sharp claws, but that was not something Dilan could change.

That was why he wanted to start collecting as many spoils as possible.

However, he halted in his tracks the moment his gaze landed on a crystal that had been lying next to the Silver Wolf Leader for quite some time.

Dilan picked it up in curiosity and smiled faintly when he read through the information provided by the system.

“So that was why it was so powerful? Weird...”

[[Wild Instincts(Passive)] Tier-1 ★★

Inability to control his/her emotions, the wielder loses part of his/her reasoning when encountering a desperate situation.

The bigger the desperation of the ability’s wielder the more reasoning he/she loses.

The less reasonable the wielder, and the more he/she relies on his/her wild instincts, the stronger he/she will become!

50% amplification of the wielder’s prowess when the wielder loses all his/her reasoning!]

The description of the ability was slightly confusing at first glance. That was why Dilan felt weird about the ability.

“So it is an inferior version to an active Berserk ability?”

He concluded after re-reading the ability once again but he still felt a little bit weird.

From Dilan’s point of view, the Silver Wolf Leader didn’t lose its reasoning completely, yet, its strength had increased drastically.

That simply meant that he had not seen the Silver Wolf Leader in its strongest state. Dilan felt a shudder run down his spine at this thought.

However, oddly enough, he also felt a little bit regretful at this thought.

‘Fighting against the Silver Wolf Leader in its strongest state would certainly be exciting’

Dilan sighed before he shrugged his shoulders.

He stored the ability crystal in his backpack before starting to collect the Silver wolf’s claws and fangs.

Even if [Wild Instincts] was a powerful Tier-1 passive ability, Dilan was not interested in it.

Dilan was completely aware that he was already on the verge of losing his reasoning in exciting fights that gave him an adrenaline rush.

This was already more than enough of a hassle in fights where one had to use intelligence instead of brute force to fight.

Holding back his battlelust was already difficult enough, so he didn't need another burden, called [Wild Instincts] while fighting.

After he finished collecting his spoils of war, Dilan quickly left the battlefield.

He had spent way too much time on the battlefield that was littered with dead bodies and puddles of blood, which attracted numerous monsters.

It was his good fortune that no powerful monster found his way to him.

But that was not something he thought about while running into one of the larger buildings.

He wanted to have a few minutes for himself to figure out what he needed to do next.

Thus, he only stopped when he reached the fifth floor of the building he had entered.

"One more Silver Tier-1 Essence crystal and I would finish that task, alright....There are also more than 50 Bronze Tier-1 Essence crystals. Old Jeff can use them to improve his proficiency in the forging process of the Serpentine Blades!"

Old Jeff could also grind the claws and fangs he had collected and turn them into daggers, arrowheads, and other useful weapons.

This thought eased Dilan's mind as he was under the impression that they lacked useful weapons the most.

Now that one problem was solved, there was something else, which had been bothering him for quite a while.

'Rescuing survivors should be quite difficult right now...but it is not like I can wait any longer...'

Dilan knew that he had neglected other survivors in Rian way too much.

That was why he chose to focus on rescuing humans rather than massacring more monsters.

By pursuing the former, the latter would naturally follow suit, either way.

With that thought in mind, Dilan approached the panoramic windows on the building's fifth floor before sighing heavily.

The massacre he caused on the lower floor looked as gruesome as before, and even the angle from his current point of view didn't change that.

However, the bloody sight of mangled bodies didn't rouse his interest. Rather, it was the big crowd of monsters, which intrigued him.

A plan took shape in his mind while he was looking at the monsters. He was pretty sure that the plan was pretty stupid, or reckless, to be precise, but there was not really much he could do about it.

But most importantly...the plan involved spilling blood...a lot of blood!

Shrugging his shoulders, Dilan smiled faintly before he chose to climb down the stairs again.

He reached the first floor in less than five minutes, and tightened his grip over the Gray Slayer.

"I'm sorry, but I need your Essence crystals. So...please die for me!"

Saying so, Dilan activated [Thunder Step] before turning into a purple flash.

His eyes were void of every single emotion except a murderous intent shining within them.

He dashed toward the numerous Tierless and ordinary Tier-1 existences that had been attracted by the scent of blood after Dilan had turned into a harbinger of death.

Yielding to their instincts to approach the battlefield had been a mistake of these beasts.

However, they would never be able to fix this mistake because only death awaited them now, wanting to greet them like a long-lost friend!