

Warlord 71

Chapter 71 Ancient Paths of Advancement

After Oliver's team questioned everyone whether they had procured ability crystals or not, the final result was much better than expected.

"47 Survivors have yet to procure their ability crystal. Should we lead them to the second floor? There are more than enough imprisoned zombies separated in the patient wards."

Oliver's idea was good, and with the Kobolds' weapons killing a single unlevelled zombie would be easy for the new survivors.

There was nothing for Dilan to add, which was why he gave Oliver the authority to go ahead with his plan.

Even if he had just crowned himself the leader of their group, Dilan knew that he had yet to gain the trust of everyone, let alone their unwavering loyalty.

Furthermore, it was not as if he could take care of everything all by himself.

He was only one person and not a machine that worked 24/7.

As such, sharing his burden with the others was the easiest to show that he trusted them.

His trust was not infinite, but it was enough to give them specific responsibilities.

What he planned was to give everyone certain occupations, and roles that would make it much easier for their life within the hospital to function.

But even then, the most important to survive was strong, which was why Dilan required time for himself.

He had to talk to the nurses in order to figure out the easiest way to lethally injure himself along with ways of healing as quickly as possible as well!

Other than that, there were still the Ancient Paths of Advancement, which he wanted to take a look at first!

Because he was curious about the Paths of Advancement, he quickly checked it out..

[Ancient Paths of Advancement]

<Common Occupation>

-Warrior(30%)

-Archer (30%)

-Spearman[+](10%)

<Special Occupation>

-Berserker[Rare](1%)

-Blood Assassin[Rare+](0.09%)

-Suicide Warrior[Extraordinary](0.001%)

<Unique Occupation>

-Necromancer[Legendary](0.00001%)

-Kirak's Vassal[Unknown] (0%)

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Dilan spent more than ten minutes staring at the Ancient Paths of Advancement. He was unmoving and looked like a petrified statue.

"Hmm...I knew that I wouldn't be able to get an occupation that has to do with leadership, but what the hell are those occupations?!"

Dilan felt like complaining because the eight occupations were a little bit more unique than he expected. Well, if he were to be honest, only three out of the eight names sounded cool to him.

All occupations seem to have some sort of relation to Dilan, which proved his theory about the compatibility one required to get a proper occupation.

However, it was especially three occupations that bothered him the most.

"Suicide Warrior...Necromancer and...Kirak's Vassal?? Who the hell is even Kirak?..."

Dilan knew what a Necromancer was. This was kind of easy to describe; an existence that used dark energy, or some sort of witchcraft in order to revive the dead. Afterward, they would turn into the Necromancer's subordinates and obey his or her orders.

This was certainly advantageous if one wanted to build up a large army of Undeads before conquering places such as the Rian mountainside hospital.

After all, it wouldn't even matter if the Necromancer's army would die because they were already dead, to begin with.

Interested in this occupation, Dilan began to wonder if he had received the opportunity to choose this occupation because of the message he received when he obtained the Origin ability.

"What was it again...something like 'Unwilling to succumb to the Lord of Death of the Abandoned Lands'...I think? Is that why I received the opportunity to choose to become a Necromancer?"

Dilan was simply mumbling to himself, while trying to understand better but some Survivors, who walked past him, were able to hear what he said.

They looked at Dilan in confusion before averting their attention.

It was better not to question whatever Dilan was going to do after all!

Choosing to become a Necromancer would probably be the most helpful, considering that the occupation 'Suicide Warrior' sounded very...suicidal.

Now that left him only with 'Kirak's Vassal'. It was mysterious, something that was neither graded nor an occupation that gave Dilan the faintest hint to what exactly it was about.

However, even then, it seemed to be higher ranked if Dilan had understood the Ancient Paths of Advancement properly!

'The Essence I gained after reaching level 10 is probably the equivalent to the percentage stated in front of the individual occupations.

That means I would require more Essence to choose Occupations with a higher grade?'

The principle behind the Ancient Paths of Advancement seemed quite simple. The higher the grade of an occupation the more Essence was required to actually choose it.

Because of that, one could easily decipher which occupation ought to be the strongest.

'So Kirak's Vassal is the strongest? Followed by the occupations Necromancer, Suicide Warrior and so on...'

Dilan had stopped saying everything that came to his mind out loud.

However, that didn't help him in figuring out which occupation he was supposed to work towards.

A Necromancer was certainly powerful, and it would make him near invincible. But that would be the case if he were to utilize Necromancy properly in combination with his Regeneration Origin ability followed by being adept at fighting in close combat.

The biggest issue for most Necromancers was that they were considered as weak.

At least, that was how it had always been in the games he played, and the novels he read.

The Necromancers there were extremely powerful but quite easy to kill once their army of dead had been exterminated.

But that wouldn't be the case for Dilan, which was something that intrigued him quite a bit.

Yet, even then, Dilan's biggest curiosity was in the Occupation that had an unknown grading, and a weird name which left him clueless about everything.

The progression bar was still at 0% as well which should be impossible because there was already some Essence in his Essence pool.

As such, the progression bar should show a little advancement at the very least, even if it were to be far less than the Necromancer's progression bar!

Kirak's Vassal interested him the most, especially because it was not graded, and had not progressed even a tiny bit.

This could have multiple reasons, with one being that only higher graded Essence advanced the progression bar of the Kirak's Vassal occupation.

It was not unlikely, but the more likely reason was that the zeros after the decimal were simply too many.

Dilan thought that Kirak's Vassal required manifold times more Essence than the Necromancer occupation.

If that were to be true, it was quite obvious which occupation he would choose.

Of course, it would be the one with the highest potential as the future development of the occupation would definitely widen the gap between the occupations even more.

With that in mind, Dilan decided to accumulate more Essence soon enough.

But before he would focus on accumulating more Essence, and hunting all kinds of different monsters to increase his status at the same time, Dilan wanted to find the nurses.

Looking around, he found Ella, the only nurse, who was willing to fight.

Dilan respected her decision a lot. As such, it was even better when he found her next to Kathrine.

He saw that they were working hard on compiling a proper list of all Survivors. It was even more meticulous than Dilan had hoped for.

But that was probably for the best.

The fact that they were working hard for the good of everyone was great, which was why he didn't want to disturb them a lot.

"Morning. Ella, do you have a moment to spare for me?" Dilan thus asked straightforwardly.

Ella was not sure what Dilan wanted from him. However, because she was not all too busy, Ella nodded her head.

"What is wrong?" Somehow, she was still feeling a little bad for helping Dilan to open the cafeteria doors during the night and slip out not too long ago.

When Dilan had returned he had looked like he barely escaped death. Thus, she felt a little bit guilty about putting him through that.

It didn't make things better when they noticed that Dilan was able to heal at a rapid pace, and Ella was still sorry about her immature behavior. She should have held back the young man from risking his life.

However, the moment Ella heard Dilan's next words, her guilt was replaced by disbelief.

"Do you know a way in which I can injure myself lethally, but have the best prospects to heal? Like, is there a specific spot on the body where I can stab myself which would bleed me to death under normal circumstances, but I can heal rapidly if treated for the injury in time?"

Chapter 72 Necessary Pain!

"Do you know a way in which I can injure myself lethally, but have the best prospects to heal? Like, is there a specific spot on the body where I can stab myself which would usually bleed me to death under normal circumstances, but I can heal rapidly if treated for the injury in time?"

While asking this question, Dilan's expression never really changed.

He was still serious, and once he finished, his crystal clear sky blue eyes looked straight into Ella's green eyes.

"Ehm...why...why would you need to know that?" Ella asked carefully after she had to fight the urge not to respond at all.

In her career as a nurse, she had faced numerous weird people, to put it nicely, but the question Dilan asked was certainly something Ella had never heard about nor expected to.

Dilan noticed that Ella was a little bit weirded out, which was why he thought of answering her in a simple manner.

Opening the upgrade requirements for his Origin ability within the Log of the Ancient, Dilan thought about showing it to Ella.

A moment later a blue screen manifested in front of her, which only Ella and Dilan were able to see.

"Because of these requirements, I need to know about it!"

[[Regeneration]- Tier-0 ★★

1) Survive <5> Deadly injuries(3/5)

2) Health of <10> units has been reached!(10.4/10).

Upgrade to Tier-0 ★★★]

Dilan didn't realize that he had already met the second requirement.

With a Health stat above <10> units, he had not only surpassed the required threshold but also fulfilled a requirement for his [Lesser Immunity(Passive)] ability!

The only things left were to absorb one Bronze essence of an infected monster, and 60 Essences of infected monsters.

Dilan could fulfill this quite easily, but that could wait a little bit.

After all, his Origin ability was more important to be upgraded than his passive ability!

With slight astonishment and knitted eyebrows, Ella read through the requirements just to gulp nervously before she mumbled,

"Health of 10 units? And you have already reached that?"

Upon hearing her ask in wonder, Dilan couldn't help but smile dryly.

"If that astonished you the most, it looks like you accepted the first requirement rather easily."

Ella fell silent for a moment while Kathrine who was beside her was confused as well.

She knew that Dilan had a high Health stat, but after hearing Ella's mumbling, even Kathrine couldn't help but be a little bit astonished.

After all, her highest stat was currently approaching 6!

Dilan didn't really mind if his entire Log of the Ancient were to be revealed to others.

It wouldn't really help them because everything was bound to change in a matter of days either way.

That was also why he wanted every Survivor to list their occupation, special interests, what they were good at and also what kind of ability they had.

All of this might help him find some relation to the future choice of their occupation.

With that in mind, it was quite easy to figure out the similarities between the Ancient Paths of Advancement.

This would be quite interesting, which was why Dilan was willing to spend some more time getting to know everything.

It might help him to build up a powerful group of Elite fighters after all!

"Well, if you have to survive deadly injuries, I guess cutting open your wrist would be the easiest. But for it to be considered 'deadly' you would have to cut yourself deep enough and have to have a large quantity of blood loss..." Ella suddenly said.

Dilan had already thought of doing something similar, but the odds that his [Regeneration] ability would mess up tending to his sliced and cut veins on his wrist were present.

And if something major happened to his wrist as a side effect, he wouldn't survive the Apocalypse.

That was something Dilan was certain of!

"How about I stab myself in the chest or maybe my abdomen? I just have to avoid injuring my organs, right? I think that would be the best..."

After giving it some thought, Dilan believed that it was the most logical to keep his limbs intact.

There was also the possibility to cut his neck, but that was also something Dilan didn't really want to try.

Too many uncertain factors could cause permanent damage.

Looking at how serious Dilan was, even Kathrine got interested in the discussion between them.

She had already figured out what her ability's requirements to upgrade it were, while her sister's requirements were not yet unveiled.

With everything she heard, Kathrine was able to connect the dots and conclude that Dilan could upgrade his Origin ability.

Having seen the description of the [Angel of Death] Origin ability, she understood why Dilan wanted to focus on it.

But to think that he was ready to injure himself lethally was taking it too far in her opinion.

After all, it required an unbending resolve and willpower to injure oneself!

“Actually, there should be multiple ways for you to injure yourself lethally without damaging your organs. As long as you aim precisely, and you have a proper, straight weapon, there shouldn’t be a problem.”

Ella was deep in thought while trying to recall everything she had studied in her medical textbooks in her life.

“I will ask the others. Even if I think my answer will be helpful for you, what you are planning to do is way too serious. A single mistake and you might actually be unable to heal yourself!”

That being said, she pressed the small list they created in addition to a pen in his hand before rushing to the other nurses.

Ella gathered them around herself to have a serious discussion about Dilan’s question.

This took quite some time in which Dilan decided to help Kathrine to modify and update the list they created.

Some pieces of information they had asked from Survivors might not be answered because they couldn’t actually force them to reveal what kind of ability they had.

But that was fine. After all, asking the Survivors was more than enough for Dilan.

If they answered it just meant that he could trust them a little bit more than others.

“By the way, why are you willing to injure yourself, just to upgrade your ability? I mean it is kind of obvious that you will gain a lot from it, but if I understood it properly, you have to survive deadly injuries, right?”

Isn’t that a little bit dangerous, and slightly crazy if you were to do that to yourself?”

Kathrine was curious about Dilan’s answer. She was not sure what to expect, but her ears were pricked because she had no way of knowing why Dilan would endanger his life for something as trivial as a few small enhancements in his ability.

He was bound to face more than enough dangerous times outside the cafeteria, either way! That would definitely make him advance and level up in the long run.

In the beginning, Dilan felt that it was crazy to even reconsider injuring himself in a manner where he could die.

After all, his mindset had changed now and he was infused with the will to live since the Primordial Ascension had occurred. Everything was crazily exciting and worth living now.

As such, death was actually something Dilan didn’t want to face right now. However, he figured out that the dangers outside the hospital were simply too high, and that he needed to improve as quickly as possible and as much as possible!

“If I can become stronger by enduring pain, why shouldn’t I give it a try? As long as it is possible for self-inflicted injuries to help me give what I want, I should make use of this small loophole!”

My Origin ability and healing capabilities are good enough to recuperate in less than a day...maybe only half a day, if I focus on regenerating!

Some pain is necessary, and being able to feel pain just means that I'm still alive, which is everything that matters!

And in order to stay alive, you will have to be the strongest...because if you are weaker than your opponent, you will be killed whether it is for your Essence crystal or as trivial a thing as a slice of bread!"

### Chapter 73 Self-inflicted injury

(Note: Trigger warning- includes self-harm and abuse but neither is explained in explicit detail)

After the nurses finished their discussion that went on for more than an hour, she found Dilan and Kathrine working on the Survivor's list.

The basic draft was greatly compiled, and now everyone had to just add their information.

The most important column was what the Survivors planned to do in the future because it would determine how much food they would receive.

This was quite important, but it was not actually something Dilan was too worried about right now.

He looked up to Ella, who gave him a wry smile before she gave him the answer he had been waiting for.

"As long as you find a razor-sharp weapon that cuts neatly through your flesh, it shouldn't be a problem for you to injure yourself lethally.

If we understood everything about your ability, and about the stats of the Log of the Ancient correctly, you should heal quickly as long as you stab yourself properly.

It would be for the best if you use some sort of sharp knife that has the perfect length of a blade to injure yourself just enough once it's completely inside you!"

Ella felt weird that she was so serious about giving tips on how to inflict a deadly injury to oneself.

But even if that was the case, the little information she had about the Primordial Ascension, the Log of the Ancient, and the inhuman abilities and natural traits one could gain were a clear sign that logic was no more a prerequisite to act or decide something on their huge, and beautiful planet.

Thus, she took out a small kitchen knife which she found before continuing to speak,

"The blade of the weapon you will use should be around that long, and let me show you where you should stab yourself, and what kind of angle you should use. Take off your shirt and lay down."

Ella was calmly instructing Dilan on what to do. Thus, he simply nodded his head before removing his shirt.

A nearly perfectly toned physique was revealed to everyone which was marred by the large scar in the center of his chest..

Many more scars could be seen, but all of them stemmed from wounds that had been treated badly.



The best example for this was the scar of the old tree trunk that had left a big hole in his chest which now one could easily see. On the other hand, the bullet hole Jack had caused didn't even leave a tiny Scratch.

And the same could be said about the old wounds on both of his upper arms. Nobody was able to see a single scratch anymore.

That was the miraculous effect of the Regeneration ability.

But even then, Dilan's body appeared to be riddled with a lot of old wounds, with most of them being scars of having been whipped!

There were numerous lengthy, yet thin scars that covered his entire body that were now white lines.

Upon seeing them, Ella couldn't help but halt in her tracks.

Dilan's physique might rival a well-built young man. However, it was not as if she hadn't seen enough naked upper bodies in her career as a nurse.

But even then, Dilan's body seemed to be amongst the worst bodies she had seen...and that included bodies of dead people as well!

She could only cover her mouth to stifle a gasp, but Kathrine couldn't hold back and exclaimed, "What the hell?!"

Through her exclamation, they gained a lot of attention, which included Yvonne's.

Hearing her sister exclaim, she rushed over, only to see that Dilan was slowly lowering himself to the ground in order to lay down.

While moving his body, one could clearly see the huge scar of the tree trunk on his chest, followed by every single scar that had been caused by whiplashes.

Clearly seeing his back that was covered in scars, Yvonne flinched for a moment as she subconsciously touched her own injuries that had been caused by a whip.

She had been told that they were not deep enough to cause scars, which had messed up her already troubled mind.

'If I don't get scars after being whipped by an Ascender...but he has these scars...Just what kind of monsters did he face before the Primordial Ascension??'

Many other Survivors were also looking over at Kathrine, only to see Dilan's numerous old injuries.

Nobody said anything after Kathrine's exclamation, and Dilan could already tell what was going on.

He also understood that their reaction was quite normal.

'It's not like all families are great and the members love each other unconditionally' Dilan told himself with a faint smile on his face before he lifted his head from the ground.

"Can you tell me where I need to stab myself now? Just demonstrate it once, and I will try to recreate it!"

His words pulled Ella out of her trance, and she knelt down to start demonstrating Dilan everything.

The other nurses had also come over to take a look in order to see if Ella was doing everything correctly.

That was at least the reason they told themselves to come over to observe her demonstration, knowing exactly that the truth was different. They had simply wanted to figure out more about his scars because some of them looked extremely nasty.

Dilan didn't mind onlookers. His entire focus was on using the correct way and angle in which he had to stab himself.

Once Ella showed him all the ways to injure himself lethally without injuring his organs, Dilan took over the knife from her hand before repeating the movements she had shown him.

It was not difficult to remember everything, and Dilan nodded his head after Ella demonstrated everything for a second time.

He was confident that there wouldn't be an issue, which was why he gave her a small smile.

The only thing that made it look like he was a little bit worried were his eyes which gleamed faintly in self-doubt.

But even then, Dilan didn't hesitate once he had imprinted everything in his mind.

He got up from the ground, went over to his mattress and bent down just to rummage through his backpack.

A moment later, Dilan got hold of the War dagger he had made out of the War Krendel's claw.

It moved smoothly in his hands, and Dilan couldn't help but smile bitterly seeing the black blade that gleamed faintly. It had been well sharpened and there were no saw-like edges that could rip open his innards.

Coating it with a little bit of mana, Dilan took a step away from his mattress before he held the war dagger in front of his body with both hands.

Taking a deep breath, he aimed at a specific spot on his abdomen before he stabbed himself.

Just at this moment, numerous memories flashed through his mind. In one such memory, a middle-aged man towered above the 10-year-old Dilan. He was holding a bloody whip in his hand, and whipped him over and over again until the young kid stopped screaming and quieted down.

At first glance, one couldn't see that the chest of the young kid was moving faintly, indicating that he was still alive.

However, this small sign was already more than enough for the middle-aged man to whip him once again.

"How the hell am I supposed to be the father of useless trash like you!?"

That was the only thing the young Dilan was able to hear before he lost his consciousness.

But just a moment later, the current Dilan regained his senses once again. Determination gleamed in his eyes with one particular thought flashing through his mind.

'Who the hell told you to give birth to me if you cannot act like a father, you piece of shit!!'

A moment later, the tip of the dagger pierced through his skin. Cutting through his flesh, Dilan stopped using force just a moment later before his abdomen twitched just once.

Seeing him still stand on his feet made everybody stare at him with shock as they could clearly see that Dilan's resolve was truly high enough to stab himself.

This was simply insane because nobody would have the willpower to do something like that.

Either Dilan was truly insane, or it was truly his unbending will and determination to become stronger that kept him striving for more.

Everything they had seen just a few minutes ago was already weird, but seeing Dilan stab himself was hard to believe.

Crimson blood trickled down from the injury, but Dilan merely gritted his teeth as he curled his fingers around the hilt of the War dagger and pulled it out of his abdomen.

What followed suit was blood flowing out of the self-inflicted wound as if the walls of a dam had broken and water was gushing out.

It hurt like hell as unbearable pain shot up from the wound, and Dilan began to wonder if he had truly stabbed himself just now. His senses were clouded and his brain turned foggy.

He couldn't even think properly anymore and simply forced himself to activate his Origin ability.

[Regeneration]!

An itching sensation surrounded the deep knife wound, just for his ability to stop working after ten seconds had passed.

As such he activated his Origin ability once again.

[Regeneration]!

Ten seconds later the effect wore off again.

[Regeneration]!

And one last time after ten more seconds had passed, Dilan activated his ability once again.

[Regeneration]!

But that was not it, and Dilan closed his eyes forcing himself to think clearly.

He gathered the mana in his surroundings and filled the 0.1 units of mana he was missing after which he quickly activated his Origin ability once again.

[Regeneration]!

In a mere minute, his Origin ability had been activated a total of five times.

His body was rapidly healing, and the fountains of blood gushing out of his wound had stopped, before the levels of blood in his body would reach a dangerously low level.

But even then, Dilan couldn't help but smile in pain as he took a look at the upgrade requirements of his Origin ability.

[1] Survive <5> Deadly injuries! (4/5)]

He was satisfied with himself because everything had worked perfectly fine.

Thus, Dilan knew that he could repeat the same process over and over again.

In the end, the only issue would be enduring the enormous pain he was feeling even now, and overcoming the warnings of his own mind that told him it was stupid to injure himself.

But instead of listening to his mind, Dilan would rather follow his gut that told him one particular thing right now!

"I'm so fucking hungry!!"

Chapter 74 Is he an M?

Nobody could believe their eyes when they saw Dilan walk through the room as if nothing had happened.

He entered the kitchen, only to come out with a plate full of food a minute later.

Dilan finished the food in no time, just to take another helping.

Under normal circumstances, the others would argue that Dilan shouldn't eat that much, but nobody dared to approach him right now.

Everyone felt as if their legs were paralyzed. They could only move their heads to stare at each other and then at Dilan, whose expression got better the more food he ate.

It was as if he had never stabbed himself.

Yet, the deep wound in the area of his abdomen was a clear sign that he was still severely injured. It was just the bleeding that had stopped.

It was difficult for them to comprehend just how much pain Dilan was enduring right now.

As such, they didn't even try to understand his pain.

Most survivors simply told themselves not to mess with Dilan, and that it had been a good choice to stay by his side.

He was endangering himself with the injuries he had inflicted to his very own body willingly, just to become stronger..

And the stronger Dilan was, the better protected the cafeteria was.

Thus, everybody was of the opinion that Dilan should eat his fill to recuperate as quickly as possible.

The person everyone was speaking about was oblivious to the fact that he was the focus of attention.

Dilan was busy trying to sense the mana in his surroundings.

It was not exactly easy because the mana within the cafeteria was quite low.

This was different on the second floor.

With that in mind, he couldn't help but think about the Gate.

"I will go to the permanent Gate on the second floor. The mana there is the densest. If someone wants to learn how to sense mana, follow me."

Saying so, Dilan finished eating his food before he went over to his mattress.

Enduring the bolt of pain that shot up from his abdomen when he picked up the Captain's sword, Dilan left the cafeteria to make his way towards the permanent Gate.

While the Primordial Ascension was likely to have awoken the mana of Milarn, Gates were actively nourishing the surrounding with more mana.

This was something Dilan had noticed not too long ago. When he appeared in front of the Gate a few minutes after he left the cafeteria, not a single monster could be seen.

He had expected this, which was why he went closer to the Gate to feel the densest streams of mana around him.

His body was passively absorbing the mana that was released by the Gate. Actively trying to perceive, control and annex the dense mana was quite difficult.

However, after he relaxed and tried a few times, this worked pretty well.

After spending the next eight hours in front of the Gate, Dilan could clearly feel how his control over mana had increased.

The proficiency with which he could handle mana was pretty great in his opinion.

It was quite easy to circulate it through his body now, and releasing it around specific areas such as creating a faint shimmering glint around his Clawed Gloves was also possible.

As he was surrounded by the dense mana, it was possible for him to replenish one Unit of mana in less than 20 minutes.

But if he was to try the same outside the dense mana of the Gate, he would probably require 23 minutes.

Compared to before, he had saved two minutes in the process of replenishing one unit of mana, which was quite decent.

Using his Origin ability every single time his body was filled with one unit of mana, Dilan quickly realized that his wound had already healed decently.

It was already close to dinnertime, which led Dilan to think of something.

His current healing capacities were simply too powerful.

With that in mind, he spent one more hour near the Gate before he returned to the cafeteria.

The only downside of his Origin ability was that it required tremendous amounts of nutrition to attain the highest potential.

That was why Dilan returned to the cafeteria before he took the war dagger out once again.

Seeing what Dilan was doing, everyone's eyes widened once again.

"He won't do that, right?" Yvonne asked Kathrine, tugging at her clothes to make sure that she was not dreaming right now.

However, Kathrine could only bite her lower lip, and was unable to say anything because she was certain that Dilan was absolutely serious right now!

Yvonne and many other women looked at Dilan with uncertain expressions as he simply raised the dagger and stabbed himself once again.

It was a different location where he stabbed himself, and Dilan groaned in pain when the dagger was deep enough within his abdomen.

"Did he...really just do it again?!?" One of the older women asked, not believing what she was seeing right now.

The older woman had been outside with Oliver and his team to procure their first ability crystal when Dilan injured himself for the first time.

As such, it was hard for her and the others to truly believe what kind of rumors they had heard about their group's leader!

She and some others had gone out in small groups so that Oliver and his small team could ensure everyone's safety.

It was scary, but nobody was forced to kill more than one zombie, which the team of Ascenders had even crippled for them before.

As such, it was no problem to finish their small task of killing a single monster, even if it took some willpower to overcome their fear of killing a being, let alone a zombie that growled out in fury.

After they were done, their group simply returned to the cafeteria, while everyone was holding their ability crystal in their hands with a bright smile.

They were proud of their achievement of having killed a zombie.

Their willpower made them feel as if everything would get better as if they could overcome all hurdles even if they were on their own.

Yet, when they heard that Dilan was injured, along with the horrifying fact that he injured himself, their confidence to survive in the Apocalypse alone crumbled into a thousand pieces.

The more rumors everyone heard, the less they believed what was going on. Meanwhile, Ailee, Oliver, and the rest could only rush to him to ask what was going on.

However, Dilan was just standing right in front of the Gate with his eyes closed, while several other Survivors stood around him.

And they received the most ridiculously unbelievable answer when they asked him what happened to the wound they could clearly see. Dilan just smiled wryly and answered,

“I’m perfectly fine, don’t worry. I did that to myself!”

This answer was unexpected, and certainly not something one would say while smiling casually.

However, understanding that this was Dilan they were talking about, Ailee and Oliver simply accepted his answer without questioning anything.

But even then, nobody had expected Dilan to injure himself right in front of everyone while some were still having dinner.

It was truly weird to see the half-naked Dilan walking in the cafeteria, just to see him stabbing himself once again.

“Maybe...he is a Masochist? One of the truly crazy ones!!”

Chapter 75 Project: Hospital Conquest?

For the Survivors who were still having dinner, it was quite weird to see Dilan stabbing himself.

It had already been shocking to see his naked upper body that was riddled with old wounds, but when they saw the blood trickling down the blade Dilan pulled out of him as if it was nothing, they couldn’t help but put down their plates.

A fountain of blood spurted out of the deep cut he had inflicted on himself.

However, it was less than a minute later that he had stopped bleeding already.

This was amongst the weirdest of the entire situation.

Dilan’s injury from the morning didn’t require much attention anymore. It had already healed to a large extent.

But that was already astonishing, to begin with.

Not minding the Survivors’ eyes that were fixated on him, Dilan smiled lightly as a message popped up in front of him.

He sensed how his Health stat increased, followed by his healing capacities that increased alongside as well.

His Origin ability was upgraded once again, reaching Tier-0 ★★★ without causing any problems.

[[Regeneration]- Tier-0 ★★★

[+9 Health], Passive →Enhances regeneration

Active →Uses up 1 unit of Mana to further enhance the regeneration effect for 10 seconds!].

His Health stat increased by 4 points, which was more than he had expected by one point.

This meant that he would heal even faster which was even better for Dilan.

However, even then, Dilan didn't really feel like stabbing himself again for now.

The requirements to further enhance his Origin ability were to survive a total of eight deadly injuries.

Thus, he required three more deadly injuries.

But owing to the fact that he required a Health stat of 20, Dilan postponed stabbing himself for the time being.

He had other things that he wanted to do such as increasing his overall strength, taking a look at how talented the others were, what kind of groups he wanted to put together in their small community, and to accumulate loads of Essence to get his hands on an occupation!

Because all of this was important, he ate his fill without actually paying attention to how much he was eating.

Dilan was done eating in no time, which led him to gather around the group of Ailee and the others.

Kathrine and Yvonne were also in this group. They were currently looking over the list that Dilan, Ella and Kathrine had created.

Most Survivors filled in the requested information.

This was quite helpful because it allowed their entire group to figure out which Survivors wanted to focus on what kind of role in their group.

Almost no one wanted to stay idle, but that was quite obvious.

First of all the new Survivors were thankful for having been saved. Fearing that they would be thrown out, they chose to provide their help in several ways.

On the other hand, there weren't many lazy Survivors in their old group either if he were to exclude two or three entitled middle-aged or even older Survivors.

But even they felt a little bit bored doing nothing after eight days had passed. And now they wouldn't even get the same amount of food as before if they didn't work for it!

As such, they chose to write down some basic things they were capable of.

The middle-aged man with the broken wrist wrote down something as well, but he wouldn't be able to do anything he listed owing to his broken hand.

Dilan presumed that this was because the middle-aged man wanted to take revenge on him.

Unfortunately, Dilan couldn't care less as he simply did not take the bait.



Instead of being bothered about him, he averted his attention to other pieces of information that were much more intriguing.

“In total, 33 Survivors want to fight. This already includes us, but still...that is much more than I expected!”

Yet, even after reading that so many Survivors wanted to become powerful Ascenders, Dilan couldn't help but be slightly astonished about the abilities they had bound to themselves.

Almost every new Survivor had bound an ability that was suitable to the occupation they listed down.

This shouldn't be a coincidence, which was something that Dilan was able to prove not long after when Ailee spoke about the idea the new Survivors had come up with.

The ability crystals were bartered amongst everyone who procured one!

There was a specific reason behind this as many Survivors wanted to pursue a specific occupation.

For example, some of them wanted to fight but had a bad ability to make use of in combat.

As such, the new Survivors began to trade them with each other, so that everyone could get whatever they wanted.

In the end, everyone was able to make use of the abilities they bartered, which was very good, even if Oliver, Pierre, and Sarah had hoped to get their hands on some abilities!

They wanted to become more powerful and the quickest way was to bind a powerful ability.

But their complaints did not matter much because more Ascenders meant more combatants.

If all of them were trained properly, they would be able to clear the Rian mountainside Hospital much faster than initially expected.

And this would just be the beginning because more powerful Ascenders meant that they could go hunting in the mountainside, which would help them procure the food and meat they required.

However, this was under the condition that the meat of mutated animals was still edible!

As such, at the end of the day, everyone was quite satisfied with how things went for the day.

Dilan's behavior and the fact that he stabbed himself twice were still hard to digest for some of them.

Nevertheless, as an Ascender one could clearly sense that Dilan's body had become stronger and that his body healed much faster after he stabbed himself for the second time!

Because this was something one could perceive rather easily, nobody dared to ask him why he inflicted injuries on himself.

Dilan might tell them the truth, but everyone who thought about asking him this couldn't help but think that the answer might be more disturbing than they imagined.

Thus, they stayed silent, only for Dilan and the others to come up with a plan on how to train everyone as well as possible.

This included Oliver, Ailee, and even Kathrine as well.

It might be true that those three were the strongest right after Dilan, but comparing their strength with each other wouldn't give them a true idea of their strengths and weaknesses.

Kathrine even doubted that her [Lightning strike] would have any use against him because the ability took her a whole second to charge up.

And this second would be more than enough for Dilan to kill her.

This was something Kathrine was quite sure about!

"How about we allow the new Survivors to recuperate for two more days before we lead them through the next few floors of the Rian mountainside Hospital?"

I mean Dilan and Kathrine said that the monsters outside are much stronger. That means as long as they take care of the stronger zombies, there shouldn't be too many surprises, right?"

Pierre came up with this idea. He shared what was on his mind without holding back.

His strength might be the lowest in the entire group but he didn't shy away from speaking owing to his [Calm mind] passive ability that allowed him to overcome his hesitation.

Dilan thought that Pierre's idea was quite logical.

And he even believed that it was for the best to clear the entire hospital as quickly as possible.

After all, the strength of all monsters was rapidly increasing.

That meant the mutated Bronze monsters inside the hospital might soon choose occupations and become Tier-1 existences!

This was not something to joke about, which was why Dilan nodded his head before suggesting,

"Let's scout the stronger monsters on the higher floors of this tower tomorrow. Those who want to join us are welcome, and the others are allowed to rest....I feel like we will have to face much more than some zombies in a few days..."

Dilan had a premonition, and all of this was owing to the permanent Gate.

It was almost as if the dense mana fluctuations of the Gate had told him something, and were giving him a warning.

But he was unable to understand what the dense mana fluctuations wanted from him.

As such, he missed out on the most important facts...which was something he would regret later...or maybe not?

Chapter 76 Leaving out?

It was early in the morning when Dilan woke up.

He didn't hesitate to get up from the ground, though a sting prevented him from moving too rapidly.

However, when Dilan looked down at his naked upper body, he quickly understood that the sting was just from the new and thin layer of skin that had formed over the two injuries he had inflicted on himself.

Using his Origin ability four times in succession, he felt as if his entire body had been reborn.

A faint smile covered his lips when he noticed that he could finally move however he wanted.

There was only the slight itch owing to the scabbing of his wound. But that was not really something he had to pay any attention to.

'I can really heal fast...If I want to, I could injure myself lethally twice a day...'

Even Dilan had to agree that this was kind of scary.

As such, he shuddered once before he got his act together.

Dilan was still wearing the Clawed Gloves as he picked up the Captain's sword.

He didn't even think of putting down the Clawed Gloves. Though they were not only comfortable to wear, they were very powerful..

Using them, Dilan could move rapidly, entering a state in which he could slaughter opponents to his heart's content.

And that was exactly what he planned to do today.

Oliver and the others were still sound asleep.

That was no problem under normal circumstances, but they had a lot to do today.

As such, it was necessary for them to use every single minute of sunlight to their advantage.

'I think I saw that we have an electrician amongst the new Survivors based on the list...if we find the hospital's emergency power back-up, it should be possible to work something out!'

Getting their hands on fuel wouldn't be a problem because there were, at least, 300 cars in the parking lot.

They belonged to the employees and patients of the Rian mountainside hospital.

With enough fuel near them, there shouldn't be a problem.

Taking that into consideration, Dilan approached the noticeboard that was located right next to the sliding door of the cafeteria's kitchen.

Dilan thought of writing a few things that had to be done for the other Survivors who would stay back..

Amongst these things were procuring fuel with the help of some Ascenders that would protect them, finding the hospital's blueprint in order to search for the emergency generator's location, and conducting proper research through the entire first floor.

Dilan asked the survivors to comb through the second, third, and fourth floor of their tower in search of food and other necessities, but only when he and the others were able to ensure the absence of monsters on the third floor.

They had run past the third floor several times but didn't encounter any other monster except the Chimera Zombie Centaur.

However, that didn't mean there was no other monster lurking in the dark.

Thus, it was on Dilan to take a proper look and ensure the safety of those who would venture on the said floors.

He kept writing down a few things the Survivors should do, such as working out to keep themselves fit.

It would be an utter waste if all of their stats were high but their body was skinny like a stick, or fat like a walrus.

Dilan didn't have anything against chubby, or skinny people.

But when it was about the safety of other people, it was important for the Ascenders to understand that they endangered their own life and that of others if they were to be unable to move their bodies to the full extent of their true capabilities.

This was not something that involved only the new Survivors but Oliver and the others as well.

Oliver was still too skinny, but the young man understood that already.

As such, there was no need for Dilan to say anything to him.

Once he was done writing everything, Dilan moved towards the mattresses of Ailee, Sara, Pierre, and Oliver.

He woke them up by snapping his finger against their ears.

Holding their heads for the next few minutes, they got up groggily, while rubbing their tired eyes.

"Why didn't you wake up Kathrine as well? I thought she wanted to go out with us as well?"

Sarah asked this, not sure how to feel that he didn't wake up Kathrine.

Was she more important to Dilan or less important?

Understanding Dilan was quite difficult, so Sarah had no idea what exactly the truth was.

"She just reunited with her sister. We should give them a little bit more time, don't you think so?" Dilan asked while smiling faintly, just to add,

"Furthermore, if Kathrine joins us, will you be able to get as much Essence as you would like?"

Sarah and Pierre were at the lowest level in their entire group.

Even the new Survivors might be able to get stronger than them once their minds adjusted to the sensation of killing.

Clearly understanding that Dilan was giving Kathrine some time with her sister, while simultaneously giving them the chance to charge up to Kathrine motivated them.

“In that case, where are we going this morning? You said that you wanted to kill the stronger monsters on the higher floors. Are we going to do this for the entire morning before we lead the other Survivors through the floors where we have left only low-leveled zombies alive?”

Ailee was now fully awake and motivated to leave the cafeteria, but it was at this moment that Kathrine appeared behind her.

“So you guys want to leave without me?!” She asked all of a sudden, causing Ailee to exclaim in shock.

She had not heard Kathrine tiptoe behind her and had to cover her mouth with her hands so as not to curse out instinctively.

“I wouldn’t put it like that, but yes, we will leave without you. In the end, we need someone to look after the Survivors as well.

And your sister needs you more than we do during the hunt.”

Dilan didn’t feel embarrassed that Kathrine appeared all of a sudden.

He had already sensed that she didn’t sleep soundly last night. As such, it was not really a surprise for her to wake up after hearing their whispered discussions.

Kathrine was still tired. But even then, she could clearly understand the intention behind every single word Dilan said.

Thus, she nodded her head, before turning around once again.

She walked back to Yvonne, whose hands were roaming all over the mattress, searching for the familiar warmth of her sister.

“I will take care of everything, and we will join you guys in the afternoon hunt!”

Kathrine had heard their discussion while she had pretended to be asleep.

As such, she knew what they planned for the afternoon.

With Yvonne’s health in her mind, Kathrine decided that it was time for her to fight. She would hunt a powerful monster at or below level seven, and Yvonne could go on a carnage with the use of the [Angel of Death]!

This was a simple, but very efficient plan she had in mind.

Thus, there was no need for Kathrine to throw herself in a dangerous situation right now.

Taking care of her sister was a priority for her, just like Dilan said.

Once Dilan and the others saw that Kathrine went back to sleep beside her sister, they collected the weapons they needed for the hunt before leaving the cafeteria.

Chapter 77 Difference

[-[Lesser Immunity] Ungraded ★★★★★-

Upgrade requirements

- 1) Essence of '200' infected monsters have been absorbed!
- 2) Health property of -10- has been attained!
- 3) Bronze Essence of '10' infected monsters have been absorbed!

Upgrade to Tier-0 ★]

[[Lesser Immunity(Passive) was upgraded to [Immunity(Passive)] Tier-0 ★]

[[Immunity (Passive)] Tier-0★

Gains immunity against poisons and infections below Tier-1 Level 5! Immunity includes scratches of zombies, restricted to ten scratches/bites a day (10/10)]

Reading through all three messages, Dilan nodded his head in satisfaction.

Less than an hour had passed since they had left the cafeteria, and they had just cleared the third floor.

There had been quite a few zombies locked in patient wards. After killing them, Dilan procured their crystals before encountering another Mutated Swiftess Zombie.

Because Dilan required one more Bronze Essence to upgrade his passive skill to Tier-0 he killed it without bothering about the opinion of the others.

They didn't say anything either because they had learned that Dilan took decisions after analyzing the situation thoroughly. And, so they simply observed his expressions..

It was quite difficult, but with detailed observation, one could see his facial expression that told them when he required something.

That was also why one could avoid unnecessary trouble as long as one paid close attention to Dilan.

Once the third floor was cleared, their group took a second glance at the fourth floor.

Dilan wanted to make sure that there was no powerful zombie. It was possible for them to have accidentally overlooked the presence of the zombies two days ago.

If they missed a bunch of strong zombies, it would be quite troublesome.

Thus, being meticulous was the most important.

However, after they finished inspecting the fourth floor not long after, Dilan smiled lightly before he suggested,

“Let's just kill all the zombies in our way. It is not necessary to hold back too much for now. The four of you have to level up quite a bit, after all!”

Dilan finished these words by the time they reached the fifth floor.

He was not even sure how many floors the hospital had, but if he recollected correctly, the Rian mountainside hospital was known for being the biggest hospital in the entire city.

So there had to be a few more floors, with each of them having hundreds of zombies!

And there were a total of four towers. As such, Dilan didn't think of pressuring the others on sparing the low-leveled zombies they were to encounter right now.

Understanding Dilan clearly, everyone wielded the Kobold weapons, while Ailee held her cold-metal bow at the ready.

They reached the fifth floor fully tense and encountered a batch of 100 unlevelled zombies right off the bat.

Thankfully, not a single Bronze zombie was amongst them and neither did he find a mutated ordinary zombie.

Thus, Dilan didn't even think of intervening in their fight as he stood back and observed the others.

Oliver wielded two Kobold shortswords. They had the perfect length for Oliver to be considered a rather lengthy dagger.

Through the additional stats they provided, he was confident enough to charge at the group of Zombies.

Oliver was ready to hone his skills in the face of possibly being scratched by one of the zombies.

Meanwhile, Sarah wielded a Kobold spear, while Pierre brandished a Kobold's longsword around.

Everyone seemed ready to give their best as their eyes gleamed in determination. Pierre and Sarah chose to follow Oliver and join him in the fray.

Just a moment later Ailee began to shoot out one arrow after another.

A faint bluish gleam shrouded her eyes due to the [Higher Vision] ability.

She focused her attention on the zombies that approached them with oddly fast movements.

But at the same time, her attention never left to ensure that there were no surprise attacks. Ailee felt responsible to save everyone from being scratched or bitten.

Because her mind told her to take care of the others, she didn't fire many arrows. And most of the arrows she fired were aimed at zombies who got too close to her group.

These zombies had approached Oliver and the others from a dead angle, which meant that they wouldn't have noticed the zombie before it had appeared right next to them.

While observing the entire fight, Dilan was quite calm.

If the four Ascenders were unable to defeat the low-level zombies, it was futile to continue hunting with them.

After all, they would only hold him back in fights against powerful Bronze monsters.

He could also try to strengthen them with his unbending efforts, but for that, they had to showcase a bare minimum amount of talent and teamwork.

Furthermore, both Ailee and Oliver had the basic mastery abilities of a specific weapon.

The meaning behind this was quite simple as they received the experience and memories of semi-professional archers and assassins simply by binding the passive ability to themselves.

That meant they ought to have better teamwork, or something was wrong!

Oliver moved rapidly, and his hands never stopped moving as each of his slashes was enough to kill a zombie.

The Kobold's weapons were strong enough to cut through the unleveled zombies as if they were made of butter.

But seeing how overconfident Oliver was suddenly acting, Dilan couldn't help but frown.

He left his position in the triangle that Sarah and Pierre had formed as he rushed ahead.

Every single zombie around him might succumb in the face of his daggers, but that was not enough to calm down Dilan.

From his carefree demeanor, Dilan changed his stance as he held the Captain's sword tightly.

Yet, he kept looking at Pierre and Sarah's fight instead of taking a step ahead.

Sarah's [Multitasking(Passive)] ability was working seamlessly, allowing her to coordinate nearly perfectly with Pierre.

Their teamwork was quite good as they understood that it was important to help one another to quickly finish off the zombies.

And, considering that some low-leveled zombies within the Rian mountainside hospital reached the exact same level as Sarah and Pierre, it was even more prominent.

Dilan liked this much more than the overconfident Oliver. In a way, Oliver acted just like him.

This was something Dilan could tell from the way Oliver tried to fight all by himself.

But the biggest difference between Oliver and Dilan was simply the fact that one of them had an [Immunity] ability and the other one didn't.

As such, Dilan could allow himself to act rushed, and fight the zombies while being surrounded by them.

However, for Oliver, this was far more dangerous! The tiniest scratch of a zombie could end Oliver's life, and that was not even something one could joke about.

Ailee understood this as well, which was why she couldn't help but look at Dilan for a moment before she asked,

"Can...you help him? Please..."



She knew that Oliver was not really in danger right now. Nevertheless, she was worried about the possibility of him being overwhelmed and making a stupid mistake.

Even if Oliver was doing his best, he could get scratched quite easily.

And right now, there were more than ten zombies around Oliver. The skinny young man was fighting by utilizing his entire strength.

The passive basic dagger mastery ability clearly showed its greatness as Oliver killed all the zombies around him.

However, after some time passed, he didn't even notice that he missed one zombie, who had been pushed to the ground by another one.

It began to crawl towards Oliver while being stepped on by the other zombies.

Advancing slowly, it nearly reached Oliver and was about to scratch him, just for a thunderous noise to reverberate through the surrounding.

A moment later a purple flash shot through the room.

Rotten blood, organs, skulls, and brain mass splattered through the surroundings as seven zombies had been beheaded at once.

And the zombie that had been trampled upon was being squashed by a foot that was shrouded in currents of electricity!

All of a sudden, Oliver's immediate surroundings were freed of every zombie as the young and skinny man looked at Dilan in confusion.

"Why did you intervene?" He was visibly confused because he was pretty sure that Dilan wanted them to improve.

However, seeing Dilan's eyes darting to his right foot, Oliver's gaze moved straight to the squashed zombie that was struggling to free itself of Dilan's foot.

"Well, I couldn't let you die, right? I don't really like to kill my own comrades, even if they turn into zombies!"

Chapter 78 Red light!

It didn't take long before the remaining zombies were killed as well.

The fifth floor was not cleared yet, but that was not their goal, to begin with.

Oliver looked at the head of the zombie Dilan was crushing under his feet, and his cheeks turned red due to his embarrassment.

However, Dilan didn't take pleasure in making him feel so.

He was of the opinion that Oliver fought pretty well, and if he wouldn't have left Pierre and Sarah alone, everything would have been perfectly fine.

Squashing the head of the zombie below his right foot just a moment later, Dilan turned around to look at Pierre and Sarah.

Their teamwork had astonished him quite a bit, which made him believe that they should focus on working together in sync by making use of their passive abilities.

A better synchronization would help them fight against more and stronger monsters.

But that was something the two had understood already as they looked at each other with a slightly astonished expression.

At first, Dilan wanted to lecture Oliver, but when he saw Ailee rushing over to.

Her agitated expression was more than enough for him to understand that it was not necessary for him to lecture Oliver.

Ailee alone was more than enough to do so..

With that in mind, he thought about something for a moment before handing the Captain's sword to Oliver.

A moment later the scales of the Clawed Gloves moved, turning his hand into lengthy pointed claws.

"I will clear the floor of stronger zombies if there are any. You guys can collect the Essence crystals in the meantime!"

Dilan was pretty sure that he wouldn't take long to finish his job.

His Agility was above 11 points, while his Strength reached over 8 points with the boost of the Robe of Strength and the Clawed Gloves' status boost.

This was more than enough for him to defeat almost all monsters in his surroundings.

Catapulting towards the right corridor, Dilan shot past the unlevelled zombies in the blink of an eye.

They were not even able to perceive him properly when he brushed past them.

Instead of clearing every single patient ward as well, Dilan focused on passing through all corridors in order to take a first glance.

He didn't slow down even after seeing several mutated zombies.

Astonishingly enough, he also spotted a certain type of mutated zombie he had never seen before.

When he rushed past it, Dilan could only hear its groan.

Less than a second later he felt the temperature behind him increase, only to hear the sound of an explosion.

Turning around, he saw that a large part of the corridor's wall was blown to pieces. The wallpapers around it had burned, and one could clearly smell that something had burned.

'Did it just throw a ball of fire at me?!' Dilan wondered.

However, instead of slowing down, his speed increased.

He moved even faster than before as he leaned forward.

Less than two minutes had passed before Dilan emerged from the left corridor.

Pierre and Sarah looked at him for a few seconds with uncertain expressions, while Ailee was still lecturing Oliver.

But Dilan was not able to pay any attention to them as he shot straight into the front corridor.

At the end of this corridor, and at the T-intersection, Dilan would encounter the fireball throwing zombie once again.

And this was exactly what he wanted to do. Without even directing his mind to do it, it subconsciously activated the [Thunder Step] ability.

His Ability increased by 30% and he turned into a purple flash as he advanced through the rows of zombies.

There were some mutated zombies but Dilan's attention was on the zombie, whose entire right hand was coated in engravings that looked just like fiery flames.

When he inserted a trace of mana into the Clawed Gloves, their sharpness and endurance increased drastically.

In a moment, he appeared in front of the fiery arm zombie. The monster had just turned towards him with a fireball emerging in its hand as it saw a distinct glint of satisfaction in Dilan's eyes.

Catapulting himself towards the left, Dilan used the accumulated momentum to exceed his speed which was already terrific.

His left foot reached the corridor's wall, which he used to propel himself towards the fiery armed zombie as his left arm reached for the zombie's head.

Though Dilan had figured it out already, he could now clearly tell that the zombie's Agility was much lower than his own.

However, even then, Dilan was careful because he was not sure how powerful the fireball within the right hand of the zombie was.

That was why he changed his tactic midway. Instead of going straight ahead, he pierced the zombie's head the moment he reached it.

With his Strength and Agility, his force was more than enough to kill the zombie, which Dilan was attacking from the side as he blasted through the rather narrow corridor.

His fingers dug deep into the brain of the zombie after penetrating its skull and Dilan took hold of it, just to smash its head right into the corridor's right wall.

Cracks spread along the corridor's wall, expanding from the position Dilan had smashed the zombie head in the wall.

Merely a moment later, Dilan's right arm lunged out as he pierced through the fiery arm zombie's skull once again.

His right hand reached the zombie's brain, and penetrated it, ending the fiery arm zombie's life for good.

Tightly gripping everything he could get in his hand, Dilan thought about absorbing the zombie's essence crystal.

He was not sure if that would work, but it was only a moment later that a notification popped up in front of him.

Simultaneously his body was overflowing with energy that invigorated him.

[<Bronze> Essence of a Tierless Level 8 Pyos Rayo Zombie has been absorbed→ +0.3 Strength, +0.5 Stamina, +2.1 Mana]

He had never received so much mana at once, but that was obviously not something he would complain about.

However, instead of focusing on the increase in his stats, Dilan threw a look at his Ancient Paths of Advancement, or the progression of [Kirak's Vassal] to be precise!

[0.000004%]

He knit her brows upon seeing the number. Even after defeating more than 60 ordinary low-leveled zombies and two Bronze monsters at a higher level, the progression bar had barely moved.

This would be pretty frustrating under normal circumstances, but Dilan just shrugged his shoulders thinking that the occupation was probably worth the efforts.

He was ready to keep advancing because there were still more than ten higher leveled zombies he had to defeat.

The others should have it easier conquering the fifth floor after all!

However, all of a sudden Dilan flinched, and his head turned towards the fifth floor's hall.

"Dilannn! RED LIGHT!!"

An ear-piercing scream reverberated through the entire tower.

The moment Dilan heard the scream, he and the others knew exactly what was going on.

They stopped doing whatever they were doing and turned towards the stairway that led them to the lower floors.

There was only one new Survivor, who could scream out like this.

After all, the scream was caused by the [Lethal Voice] ability of a new Survivor.

Instead of using this voice to startle or frighten opponents, it could be used to lure monsters towards him, issue warnings, or request help.

And when help was requested through this ability, the fear of being attacked by monsters was certainly not the biggest problem.

That was something Dilan knew because he told the middle-aged woman, who had bound the [Lethal Voice] ability to herself, to use it only in case of a dire emergency.

The 'red light' was a color code Dilan had come up with to assess the degree of the danger they were facing, with red being the worst!

Chapter 79 Second Wave!

Ignoring the zombies around him, and the zombie whose skull he was still holding, Dilan rushed out of the front corridor.

He left the corpse of the Pyros Rayo Zombie that slumped to the door while ignoring his dirty hands.

Not a single zombie was left alive in the huge hall on the fifth floor.

As such, Dilan had quickly rushed down the floors and brushed past Oliver and the others as all of them reached the stairways towards the third floor.

While passing them, Dilan grasped the Captain's Sword, which Oliver held out for him.

With the +1 Agility boost which Dilan used instead of the Strength boost of his Clawed Gloves, his speed accelerated further.

It almost looked like he was flying down the stairs, and within less than ten seconds he reached the second floor.

When he reached the second floor it took him just one look to know what was going on.

Numerous horned rats, ordinary Krendels, and mutated versions of both monster types flooded the hall to the second floor!

A quick glance towards the left corridor told him that the number of monsters that emerged from the permanent gate was manifold higher than last time.

'Is it the second wave?' Dilan wondered.

His attention was drawn to the stairways that led to the first floor, and he quickly fixed his gaze on several new Survivors that wielded the Kobolds' weapons..

Dilan recalled the small group, and he knew that they had been the most eager to start fighting.

They didn't want to be oppressed by people such as Max and his group anymore.

That was also the reason for them to request using Kobold weapons and to follow Dilan and the others to go out hunting.

Kathrine didn't really have anything to say against this as she was woken up for the second time in the day not too long ago.

Even now, she was still a little bit drowsy, which was quite hard to believe after the booming voice that had echoed through the cafeteria owing to the [Lethal Voice] ability.

She was currently making her way toward the second floor, but Dilan had been much faster.

Using his enormous Agility to his advantage he paved his way through the horned rats and Krendels to reach the small group of Ascenders that had wanted to become stronger.

However, upon witnessing the terrifying scene of more than a hundred horned rats and Krendels, their confidence was shattered at once.

“Calm down, guys! Even if they bite you, it won’t kill you!! Don’t overuse your mana, and keep a calm mind. I’m here to prevent the worst, so try to pick one horned rat at a time and kill all of them!!”

The Kobold weapons were more than enough to pierce through the hide of both the horned rats and Krendels.

That simply meant that the Ascenders behind him had the capabilities to defeat the masses of beasts that flooded the hall of the second floor provided they gathered the courage to kill.

Some of the horned rats and Krendels had already fallen down to the first floor as they were trying to squeeze through the railing.

This was quite bad because Dilan could see them slowly advancing their way toward the cafeteria, which was the direction they were drawn to.

The smell of food attracted them, after all!

Fortunately, he could see that Kathrine arrived just in time, and began massacring the horned rats without much hesitation.

Like Dilan, he was not exactly afraid of killing living beings either. Dilan was quite happy about this in the current situation because it allowed him to believe that everything would be fine.

With that in mind, he used his terrific high Agility and high Strength to slash through dozens of monsters at the same time.

There were simply too many to miss hitting at least one monster.

That was why Dilan didn’t even think about using proper tactics to fight.

Instead, he simply bulldozed his way through them, hacking and slashing through the large horde to prevent the large masses from reaching the scared Ascenders that were only slowly beginning to regain their composure.

Blood gutted innards, and corpses were littered across the large area in front of him as he was able to move fast enough to protect everyone.

His Stamina was depleting at a slow pace, which was enough to allow him to fight like this for an entire hour, at the very least!

The fight got even easier when the Ascenders behind him dared to make their first attacks.

They attacked with hesitation, preventing them from use all their might. But this was still fine because they were, at least, doing something!

For now, Dilan was still protecting them from the worst.

This meant that there was an exceptional opportunity that unveiled itself right in front of them.

They knew that they had to kill in order to become stronger and survive.

With that thought driving them ahead, the first young man thrust out his spear forward, severely injuring a horned rat that died only seconds later.

The distinct feeling of piercing the blade of his weapon through the flesh of a living being was something the young man would never forget.

However, even if he was feeling guilty, and as if he would vomit any minute, his life was on the line.

This thought drove all other thoughts of nervousness and fear out of his mind as his movements became a little bit faster.

Less hesitation could be sensed from his side as he forced himself to keep fighting, to keep moving forward and attacking the beast that would take his life if he stayed put.

On the other hand, the remaining members of the group were still hesitating.

They had executed their first attack as well, but their legs and arms were trembling.

For most of the survivors, who were killing a beast for the first time, this was quite normal. It would take them a while to get accustomed to the sensation of killing.

But neither could they afford to sit back and adjust their mindset to something, nor retreat and take a few deep breaths.

Right now, the only option was to overcome their own negative thoughts, and advance...or to succumb to their fears!

Dilan was someone who understood the theory behind overcoming mental hurdles and advancing to become a better human being the best.

His past was everything but rosy, let alone that of a young lad born with a silver spoon.

Being fully aware of the aftermath every action of his caused, Dilan knew that he had to give it his all right now.

Thus, he stepped forward, while increasing the speed at which he attacked using the Captain's sword.

This made him the main focal point for the Krendels, horned rats, in addition to their mutations and evolutions.

The stronger monsters had noticed him, and the fact that he was slaughtering their brethren quite easily.

Hence, they all began to make their way toward him, which was quite bad because fighting against them at his current spot would endanger the others.

But it was at this moment when Dilan could hear footsteps from behind him, while the corners of his eyes clearly detected Oliver and the others.

‘Finally...Now let me move freely!!’

A faint smile emerged on his face, while excitement filled his eyes. He wanted to have free reins to unleash his true strength, the beast within him!

Simply defending the others was not enough for him, and the attention of the War Krendels, followed by the other powerful monsters made him feel a maniacal glee.

“I will handle the big ones. Focus on the small ones!! Work together, and don’t rush it. They cannot get me, so just look after yourselves!!”

He had only been holding back to protect the other Ascenders.

However, with Kathrine and the other four by their side, everything should be somewhat fine.

Dilan would be the center of everyone’s attention either way.

But that was fine with him as well as sustaining severe injuries.

After all, he was able to heal and quickly overcome every kind of injury.

Even if Dilan was not an Undying existence, he was sure that his path of ascension was not supposed to stop right here!

Chapter 80 Blood, Sweat & Guts

The stream of monsters that came from the left corridor seemed to increase further.

In fact, one could clearly see that monsters were literally pouring out of the front and right corridor!

This showed just how many monsters had emerged from the permanent Gate’s second wave, forcing them to make a detour to enter the hall on the second floor.

Adrenaline coursed through his veins, followed by mana with which he accelerated the circulation of his blood.

Through this, Dilan allowed his body to enter a state where he was fully prepared to fight, with his life on the line if necessary.

When the others had formed a small formation around the new Ascenders, Dilan didn’t even feel the need to say anything anymore.

He catapulted himself ahead with his huge Agility, before switching the weapon boost from the Captain’s weapon to the Clawed Gloves.



Rather than focusing on having an even vaster gap to everyone else in terms of speed, it was more important for Dilan to have the necessary Strength to kill all of his opponents with one, or two hits, at most!

Scanning the room once again, Dilan perceived a total of 15 high-leveled monsters.

A third of them were Bronze monsters. Dilan focused on them simply because they were the most disastrous of the lot.

That was why he appeared right in front of the first War Krendel just a second later..

Without activating even a single technique he jumped ahead while thrusting his sword forward.

The longsword pierced through the head of the tall War Krendel, killing it at once.

The first Bronze monster succumbed to its fate, just like that!

However, Dilan was far from done.

Dilan didn't give the War Krendel even one more second of his attention.

He blasted himself ahead to reach the next monster that had already been waiting for him.

It was some sort of a huge, mutated horned rat. It was walking on two legs, had short arms, and squealed at him in anger.

Just a moment later its eyes began to glow faintly.

Because Dilan had looked straight in its eyes, he struggled for a moment as dizziness overcame him.

He felt as if his entire head was being bombarded with mental attacks.

This forced him to avert his eyes from the mutated rat and look elsewhere before he finally reached it.

Dilan almost stumbled over the dozens of horned rats and Krendels which he trampled as if they were not worthy of his attention.

And that was exactly the case because Dilan's entire focus was on the now 14 powerful monsters that were in his proximity.

It took him a mere moment to adjust to the sensation of stomping over the living bodies of moving and writhing beings, but that was only something momentary.

Once he got the hang of it, Dilan had already appeared in front of the rat that was his designated target.

While slashing his longsword at his target, he clearly noticed that the mutated horned rat was trying to move.

This showed that its speed was higher than the War Krendel's.

But it was still not enough to be on par with Dilan, whose speed rivaled some existences that had already advanced to Tier-1!

Fortunately, it didn't seem as if an existence like this was present right now.

This was the only advantage right here, which was something Dilan could make use of.

Beheading the mutated Rat as if he was merely opening a bottle with a thumb, he turned away merely a moment later.

His gaze turned towards the group around Kathrine.

There were a total of 10 Ascenders that were trying to hold their formation, to keep fighting.

However, it was quite easy to perceive that the number of horned rats and Krendels was way too high.

Pierre and Sarah had merely reached level 3 by now, while Ailee, Oliver, and Kathrine were not exactly at an extremely high level as well.

This made things quite complicated for them. After all, their current position was not exactly easy to defend as well.

“Just keep fighting. When it becomes too much for you, retreat slowly while continuing to fight!!” Dilan suddenly shouted an instruction in a voice that was loud enough to reach everyone.

He didn't even wait to see their reaction or if they had understood him clearly and simply turned his head back.

Thanks to the Pyros Rayo Zombie's Essence that boosted his mana by a lot, he still had more than three units of mana left.

This was more than enough for everything he wanted to do.

With all his might, Dilan threw the Captain's Sword towards the War Krendel that approached Kathrine and the others with fast strides.

Flying through the entire hall in a beautiful arch, the razor-sharp blade of the Captain's Sword pierced through the chest of the War Krendel.

It was not yet dead, but Dilan didn't fret over it.

The War Krendel would die eventually! This was the only important thing.

Dilan spread his hands wide open and inserted enough mana into the Clawed Gloves so that they would receive an enhancement in their sharpness and endurance for 15 seconds.

At the same time, three units of mana were utilised to activate the [Thunder Step] ability for 15 seconds!

Catapulting himself ahead with a thunderous noise that reverberated through the entire hall that made faint cracks spread like cobwebs on the glass of the windows, Dilan appeared in front of the next Bronze monster.

Instead of using some glorified and beautiful tactics, Dilan decided to fight dirty.

Both of his hands lunged out for the one-meter tall rat that stood in the middle of numerous smaller beasts and closed his fingers against its thick neck.

In a second, he smashed its head against the wall.

This caused its death in less than a second; a boring and inglorious one.

Dilan simply wiped his hand to the back of his jeans and moved forward as had more than enough monsters to defeat, and no time to joke around.

Thus he catapulted himself several meters ahead with a single push.

He landed in a spot with a total of five high-levelled Krendels.

They looked like lesser versions of the War Krendel, which was why Dilan deemed them as Krendel Warriors.

The five Krendel Warriors prepared themselves for his attack.

However, even then, they didn't expect his Agility to be close to 15 times stronger than the average human before the Primordial Ascension.

As such, owing to their own Agility that was barely nearing 3.5, they were incapable of keeping up with Dilan!

He went on a rampage as he slashed open their throats, and kept inflicting several lethal and several centimeters deep gnashes on their chest, or simply tearing out their hearts, making fountains of blood spurt through the surrounding, painting the walls and the floor red as their organs spilled out of their now mutilated bodies.

And everything was done in a matter of three seconds, and only a single droplet of sweat trickled down his temples.

Without giving himself the time to take a deep breath, he turned into a purple flash that desired the blood and death of his opponents!