

Warlord 81

## Chapter 81 Bloody Feast

There was still more than enough time left for Dilan to defeat the remaining monsters.

He clearly noticed that his excitement was overwhelming.

Others would try to subdue this feeling, but Dilan willingly embraced it as he turned the excitement to kill, and fight with his life on the line into strength; the strength he required to annihilate all the monsters around him.

A purple flash swept through the entire hall, bulldozing several beings that were trampled before the currents of electricity around his feet sizzled through their skin and burned them.

But Dilan didn't notice any of that.

In fact, his senses had already been overwhelmed by his inner instincts and his desire to tear apart every single being around him.

That was also the reason why he was not able to realize that Kathrine and the others were holding the fort.

To be precise, a few more Survivors from the cafeteria had rushed to their aid.

They had required quite some time to gather their courage, but from the noises they heard from not too far away, it was quite obvious that the monsters would come for them if Dilan and the others were to die..

Because they didn't want to sit around in fear, the first one caught hold of one of the Kobolds' weapons before stepping through the doors of the cafeteria.

The young woman who had stepped ahead was clearly shivering.

Despite that, she was still advancing ahead.

When some of the Survivors, who had also listed down that they wanted to fight, saw this, they felt ashamed of their own behavior.

One could only say that it was ridiculous because a feeble young woman had to take the first step in order to give the others the necessary courage to step forward.

Slowly, the number of proper weapons available decreased, until there were Survivors, who couldn't get their hands on a Kobolds' weapon.

As such, they picked up the spears that had been manufactured from the bones, and other materials such as the horned rats' horns!

In no time, they reached the entrance hall and the stairways that led to the second floor.

When they saw the heaps of corpses, guts, blood, and intestines that littered the ground of the second floor, many women instinctively retched, while some even vomited.

However, the vast majority of Survivors were simply shocked beyond measurement because the number of rats and weird mythical beasts that flooded the second floor was simply too high.

Yet, even if the number of monsters flooding into the main hall of the second floor had long since exceeded three hundred, the small batch of beasts that attacked Kathrine and the others was just a handful.

There were, at most 10 to 30 lower leveled monsters that attacked them at the same time.

This was simply nothing in comparison to the combined strength of the monsters that entered everyone's sight.

But the reason that only so few monsters attacked the group revolving around Kathrine was quite simple.

It was the purple flash that zapped through the hall like a bolt of lightning with a terrifying speed.

Every single being that the purple flash touched met certain death, leaving behind corpses and mutilated bodies.

One could only hear the painful squeals of the Krendels that were killed by Dilan while running past them, while the horned rats were simply trampled and burned!

The [Thunder Step] ability's 15 seconds were soon over, and Dilan noticed that his Stamina was rapidly depleting.

Sweat trickled down his forehead and his brown hair was sticking to his head, while blood covered him in his entirety.

His entire being was craving for more blood, to kill more beings, and get stronger than ever before!

As such, even when his speed lowered to his usual, while the electricity currents around his feet dispersed, it didn't really feel like Dilan had slowed down.

Seeing how Dilan passed through the flood of monsters completely unbothered by the fact that all of them wanted to tear him apart and end his life, the Survivors that saw everything could only stare at him in utter dumbfounding.

There was nothing they could say as their gaze was fixated on how Dilan ripped apart the chest of a nearly three-meter tall War Krendel that towered even above its own kind.

It was as if no opponent, who was able to rival Dilan existed.

But even if there would be one, nobody doubted Dilan's capabilities...the capabilities of their leader!

Earlier everyone had guessed that he was merciless and powerful, however, right now, everyone understood that they would be safe with Dilan as long as they obeyed him.

It should even be possible to live well and to return to a somewhat ordinary life if they managed to keep working hard as long as they had Dilan in their front, leading them to victory.

Just at this moment, more powerful monsters emerged from the corridors to Dilan's side.

However, instead of feeling desperate owing to the increase in pressure, a bright smile appeared on his face that was smeared with blood.

Even his hair had turned crimson in color owing to the seemingly endless amount of blood that splattered through the huge hall on the second floor.

'More...I want MOREE!!!' it was as if his deepest desire urged Dilan to make him feel more alive, to allow him to become stronger, to clearly sense that his entire existence was worth living for.

At this very moment, a trace of anger manifested in his mind as more and more memories of his past resurrected.

'Who dares to say that I should have never been born?! Who the hell are you to ask me to die, even though I wanted to live desperately?!??'

Dilan's emotions were wreaking havoc in his mind, making him nearly burst out in anger.

Fortunately, he didn't do so as a little trace of restraint was still left within him.

However, the anger he released led the remaining trace of mana inside his body to churn.

The mana boiled like fire, circulating through his body at a rapid pace without him even realizing it.

At the same time, his body released another burst of adrenaline that made him feel as if he was knocked out.

All of a sudden, the memories that should have never resurfaced again, disappeared from his mind as it went blank.

The beast within him had unleashed, only for the bloody feast to continue!

## Chapter 82 Out of Hell

The anger churning through his veins made him feel as if the mana was boiling and when it reacted with his blood, he received a major adrenaline rush.

As such, Dilan was not even able to comprehend what had happened when he inserted the same mana in his Clawed Gloves!

It was as if a second layer of protection manifested around the Clawed Gloves that gleamed in a faint crimson color.

The second layer was this semi-transparent crimson color hue that increased the sharpness of his weapon of choice by more than 50%.

Though such a terrific high enhancement was a one-time use, it was more than enough for Dilan to kill every single beast in his surroundings without sensing their body's resistance when he cut through them!

[The host's deepest desires have been unleashed. His battle intent reached the maximum, resulting in his mana coursing through his veins like hot, molten lava. When circulated through his body, his mana was altered by adrenaline and his deepest desires.

<Berserk Mana> has been created temporarily.]

Paving his way through the masses of monsters around him, Dilan focused on the strongest beings that had emerged from the three corridors.

But his hands were spread wide open, subconsciously slashing through the back, skull, or entire upper body of the beasts he passed by.

The amount of blood spilled by Dilan's hand was enormous. Had he done this before the Primordial Ascension, he would have been sentenced to death by a jury long ago.

However, right now, he had to fight the monsters if he were to survive. Hence, he charged through the floor that was bathed in blood, turning it slippery..

But this was, by no means bad because the blood, organs and dead bodies on the ground indicated that there was one less monster for the others to fight, one more kill at the hands of Dilan, consequently leading to more satisfaction in his life that made him feel it was worth living.

He dashed through the huge hall on the second floor, entered the corridors if necessary, and killed without remorse.

Breathing heavily, it was impossible for him to tell how much time had passed as his mind was focused on wiping out all the vile monsters.

Yet, what he could tell was that his Stamina dropped to the bare minimum that would allow him to still keep running.

His sight was blurred owing to his own hair falling on his face, and the blood dripping down his head, soaking into his clothes and smearing every single inch of his exposed skin.

Slowly, after several minutes had passed, the number of monsters began to dwindle. Only when he saw that no more powerful beasts were emerging from the permanent Gate, did he regain his senses.

At this moment, another set of fleeting memories he ought to have forgotten resurfaced in his mind.

It was a picture of his mother from several years ago...maybe it had already been a decade or longer...Dilan didn't recall the date anymore.

The only thing Dilan was able to perceive in the fleeting memory was his mother standing in front of his crying sisters that hid behind her.

His focus had been on his sisters, who wanted to intervene with whatever his father had been doing at that moment, only to be held back by his stepmother, whose eyes were like blocks of ice, looking at him as if he was nothing but the scapegoat for their entire family...

Sighing deeply, Dilan shook his head before carefully using his hands to push back his hair.

Looking at the ceiling which seemed to have received numerous bloody red stains, he began to breathe heavily once again.

The memories of the last few minutes were hazy, and that was not only the case because his sight had been blurred by blood and his hair.

Now that he had regained his senses, the state he had been in was something that bothered Dilan a little bit, even if it had allowed him to unleash his highest combat prowess.

It was quite weird, and he knew that his excitement to fight, the adrenaline he felt while facing the dangers, and the feeling of killing vicious monsters were something he would hardly get under control.

In the end, Dilan understood this very well.

However, the bare minimum he wanted to have under check was being able to control himself, not enter a blank state of mind, where he would just turn into a mindless executioner.

And after looking around, Dilan barely noticed that all the other Survivors had already paved their way through to the huge hall of the second floor.

In fact, many were still killing low-leveled horned rats, and a few injured Krendels.

A few Survivors, such as Oliver, and some others were dashing through the corridors to kill the remaining monsters.

There were more than enough of them left, even if the strongest had already been eliminated by Dilan.

The number of big corpses was much higher than Dilan expected.

But instead of starting to collect his spoils right off the bat, his eyes turned toward the new Survivors.

Most of them were pale as a piece of paper.

Meanwhile, others were oddly composed.

But this group was the minority of a handful.

Almost everyone had vomited, at least once, and the majority had retched until nothing came out of their stomach.

Dilan could understand this for sure.

After all, the battlefield looked like they had entered Hell's chamber of torture itself.

Maybe Dilan would have felt like vomiting if he hadn't faced too many disgusting situations already.

'Well, even before the Primordial Ascension this sight would have been much better than being in that mansion...with those people...'

With that thought in his mind, Dilan was not even able to smile as he pierced his longsword through the skull of a monster he killed not too long ago.

He absorbed its Essence crystal, only to lift his head, where he saw that someone was making his way towards the head of the War Krendel.

'Looks like I need to add another rule...Forbidding taking away someone else's war spoils. If you don't want to die, better fuck off now!' Dilan just thought as he took a step towards the War Krendel's corpse.

The moment he took his first step, the young man turned around in fright.

Dilan's presence had been enough for the young man to notice that he had messed up.

He knew that it had been a mistake to approach the War Krendel, but when his eyes had fallen upon the Bronze color of the Essence crystal that protruded out of the squashed head, the young man had been unable to hold back.

As such, noticing that he made a mistake, he stepped back to return to his old group and blended in while trying to hide from Dilan.

Seeing what the young man did, Dilan thought that everyone would act like this, which was why he thought of adding the new rule.

With that in mind, he took a few deep breaths before he began to speak his mind about the given situation.

"Hello everyone, with great joy, I can say that we overcame this horrendous situation. From the looks of it the permanent gate released a monster wave after not releasing even a single monster for several days.

This is something we will research later.

However, for now I want to congratulate everyone for taking their first big step towards ascension, and becoming powerful Ascenders that will ascend all possible mortal realms!

As everyone might have learned by now, the Essence crystals clearly signify how much of a use absorbing them has. Through this, you can clearly sense which Essence crystals belong to you, and which do NOT belong to you!

War spoils are also included in the rule about the belongings of Survivors. So... kindly take only the things that belong to you, and not others' spoils!!

If anybody is found guilty of taking somebody else's belongings, he or she will not receive any food for 3 days. This will be considered the first warning.

The second warning is something everyone has already witnessed, right!?"

Smiling faintly, Dilan's asked the question that made an involuntary chill run down everyone's spines at the hinted meaning.

Some even exclaimed in fear before shutting their mouth in an instant.

In the end, it was not only the way Dilan spoke every single word but even more so his appearance that inflicted fear in the minds of others!

After all, his appearance eerily resembled a Devil, who had crawled out of Hell in order to torture everyone around him.

Clearly hearing every word he spoke, the Survivors vigorously nodded their heads even if it cost them the remainder of their energy to do so.

As long as they could reassure Dilan that they would never take anything that didn't belong to them, everything was fine!

### Chapter 83 3 Moods

Someone who dared to steal something right under Dilan's nose had to definitely be tired of living.

As such, it was not surprising that nothing was stolen.

Nobody dared to do anything stupid because the fear of being punished was simply too high.

Dilan knew that everyone had started to fear him, but that was actually not something he could prevent.

There seemed to be different types of personalities Dilan could have.

First, there was his gentle and kind nature where he supported everyone with his best efforts. This was something Dilan did without actually realizing it.

Second, there was his merciless nature and bad temper. He didn't accept rulebreakers and had a low tolerance to laziness and bullshit. He wanted every single person to earn his or her keep.

It was quite obvious that he would refine the rules over time, but that didn't mean anyone was allowed to ignore the existing ones.

And last but not least there was the fact that Dilan turned into a bloodthirsty beast in human skin once a battle reached a certain level of intensity.

This level included not only the pressure Dilan was sensing but also the way he was feeling right now..

If he wanted to maintain his composure it was possible for him to stay level-headed.

However, once he released everything without holding back even a tiny bit, it was over. He would reach the same state as he did not too long ago before dragging himself back to sanity once again.

It was only advantageous that he didn't attack his own allies, otherwise, his bloodthirsty beast state would be quite dangerous for everyone around him.

In the end, even Dilan was not sure what to think about the end of the battle against the monsters of the second wave.

One could say that it had been quite ridiculous for him to lose his rationale and control over his body.

Unfortunately, the anger that accompanied the resurfaced memories Dilan had suddenly remembered hadn't been helpful.

In fact, the resurfaced memories were the cause for his mood to hit rock bottom during the fight, which was why he fought without restraint.

It was messed up, to put it simply.

But on the brighter side, Dilan was pretty sure that something as before wouldn't happen.

At least, not owing to resurfacing memories, even though there were still quite a few memories, even worse ones which his mind had locked and sealed deep within himself.

Shaking his head as if to clear his head, Dilan picked up a few more Essence crystals before he was interrupted by a few Ascenders that were near him.

“Oh, why did you pick up this Essence crystal? I sense that it belongs to me?” A Survivor suddenly asked, looking at a young woman, who looked at him in confusion.

“But...I can also sense that it should be mine...” Her voice was low and nearly inaudible for the others.

However, it was Dilan, who passed by her just at this moment, and instructed them in a loud voice,

“There will be Essence crystals where multiple Ascenders have contributed to the kill. Don’t absorb them immediately, but discuss the distribution of these Essence crystals with mutual consent!”

In the end, there was no better way to solve this problem.

It was near impossible to determine who had the higher contribution in killing a specific monster while fighting an army of several monsters at the same time.

As such, the easiest way was to talk it out, once the biggest issues were solved.

Nodding their head the moment they saw that Dilan had appeared next to them, both the man and the woman, who were arguing, quieted down in an instant.

Maybe they would have started a verbal fight until one of them gave up on the Essence crystal if Dilan didn’t interfere.

However, as he was right in front of them, nobody was able to say anything.

After all, who would dare to approach, let alone provoke an existence that released a blood desiring presence?

‘I should take a note of this. Never annoy Dilan during or after a battle. His thirst for blood and death will only lead to more dangers!’

Kathrine made a mental note while reminding herself to never fight with someone else in front of Dilan after he had killed hundreds of monsters.

The thought of him intervening without being able to differentiate between friend and foe was too frightening and she even began to imagine him tearing her apart. Goosebumps spread all over her body at this thought.

Shaking her head, Kathrine could only be happy that Dilan was on their side, and that he was kind and supportive to everyone, as long as they didn’t create any unnecessary trouble.

Every human being had good and bad traits, but even then Kathrine had problems assessing Dilan.

Was he really the good guy she imagined him to be, or would he change all of a sudden when his greed for more strength would overwhelm him?

Nobody could tell, which was why Kathrine could only sigh deeply, telling herself to take her sister to practice hunting later!

There was still a lot for everyone to do, but the others could throw away the corpses they didn’t need. This was not something she had to do!



With that in mind, she continued to collect Essence crystals, which was exactly the same as everyone else, including Dilan was doing.

There were far more Essence crystals that belonged to him than Dilan had expected.

Amongst them were numerous low-leveled horned rats and Krendels' corpses littering the ground along the burned path he had created.

'Did I really kill all of them?' He asked himself, unsure about the correct answer.

However, what he sensed from each Essence crystal was certainly not wrong, which was why he simply shrugged his shoulders before continuing to collect and absorb the Essence crystals.

He didn't want to be flooded by notifications, which resulted in a bizarre situation where he didn't receive a single notification when he absorbed the monster's Essence crystals.

'Well, that is odd!'

For a second, he was confused, but it was certainly to his advantage that the notifications didn't bother him anymore.

With that in mind, he averted his focus to the huge corpse of the War Krendel, whose Bronze Essence crystal he pulled out of its destroyed skull before absorbing it.

'Should we try eating rat meat, or the Krendels' meat? The War Krendels would have enough meat to last our group for...two weeks or maybe a little bit more if we use it for soup or something like that.'

He was confused about the use of the meat of mythical beasts. Wasting it would be...a shame, but figuring out if the meat of Mythical beasts was edible was something he could leave in the hands of Bianne.

It was not his task or forte to think about it because his mind was occupied with something completely different as his head turned towards the direction of the left corridor.

The bluish liquid swirling in the permanent Gate was unmoving as if nothing had happened. This led Dilan to frown lightly.

'Just how can it be so tranquil right now?!'

Chapter 84 Arise

[334 Essences and 9 <Bronze> Essences have been absorbed→ +4.5 Strength, 6.1 Health, +1.9 Stamina, +4.1 Agility, +1.3 Mana]

Approximately 16 higher-leveled mutated monsters' Essences were there in the ordinary Essences he had absorbed.

As such, Dilan was only slightly astonished when he noticed how much of a boost he received from a single huge battle.

He had sustained numerous tiny injuries but none of them was even close to the wounds he had inflicted upon himself.

Dilan had forgotten about the injuries while fighting, which led him to take a look at them once everything was over.

However, there was not much of an injury left to look at, to begin with.

This clearly showed how potent his healing capacities were.

And his Health stat had just increased to 20.5 Units, strengthening his physique and capabilities to recuperate even faster!

'Shouldn't there be a limit on how high a stat can reach at Tier-0?'

It would make sense because otherwise, it was questionable whether he could even label Tier-1 monsters as more powerful than Tierless monsters, to begin with.

After all, one could reach level 10 with the average stat of 4 units, or be like Dilan with a Health stat of over -20-, and an Agility of -15-!

Dilan was really confused as to what the limit of a Tierless Ascender was because his body didn't really feel burdened despite the powers he had received.

If he were to be at his limits, this would have happened..

While thinking about it, Dilan approached the permanent Gate.

The bluish liquid was in a stable form and seemed to be completely unruffled by whatever had just happened.

As such, he couldn't help but approach it, while holding two Bronze Essence crystals in his hand.

"Please give me something good, otherwise, I will beat the shit out of you!!" Dilan's mood was already bad because there had been quite a few injured Survivors.

Other than that, the resurfacing memories of his family bothered him the most.

Shaking his head to get rid of those thoughts, he held out the two Bronze Essence crystals with the thought of throwing them inside the permanent Gate, just to receive notifications.

[<Bronze> Essence crystal of Tierless Level 10 Mutated Dizziran Rat and Tierless Level 9 War Krendel have been detected!]

[<Bronze> grade treasures can be exchanged with 5 <Bronze> Essence crystals of the same type!]

After reading the messages, Dilan halted in his tracks.

"Is that some bad joke?!" He could only mumble before re-reading the message once again.

'Looks like the first Bronze treasure I received was just a welcome gift...is that so??'

Scratching the back of his head, Dilan couldn't help but be confused.

But instead of bothering about accumulating enough Bronze Essence crystals, Dilan simply absorbed them.

The War Krendel didn't provide him with any further Status points.

However, the return from the Mutated Dizziran Rat was more than enough to lift his mood once again.

[<Bronze> Essence crystal of Tierless Level 10 Mutated Dizziran Rat has been absorbed→ +0.6 Stamina, +2.1 Mana]

Dilan had hoped to exchange the Bronze Essence crystal of the Mutated Dizziran Rat with a Bronze treasure that was related to the high mana attribute or mental attack of the monster.

Because that was not possible, absorbing the Essence crystal was the most logical answer.

The boost in mana was quite helpful, and it allowed Dilan's last stats to cross the threshold of 10 units!

Each of his stat was more than ten times the average of a human before the Primordial Ascension if one were to exclude Mana as it didn't exist at that time.

[Permanent Gate to (Krendel's Underground Valley). Requirements to enter the Gate are met! -All Stats <4+>, Tierless Level [10]!]

For a moment, Dilan considered entering the Krendel's Underground Valley at once.

But that would be quite irresponsible to everyone, who fought against the monsters of the second wave with all their mind.

With that in mind, he returned to the huge hall on the second floor before approaching Kathrine.

"How is the current situation? We didn't have any casualties, right? I saw some injured Ascenders, but everyone looked quite fine after absorbing the Essence crystals of horned rats and Krendels."

Kathrine could only nod her head before her attention turned to one particular direction.

"It looks like the Essence has the innate trait to decrease our fear of killing monsters. It doesn't obliterate our fear but it is still amazing how much everyone changes after leveling up once or twice."

It was truly surprising, even more so if one saw how the complexion of several dozen scared witless Survivors changed in a matter of minutes.

Dilan was just about to say something else as he saw that Kathrine's gaze was still fixated on something.

'Why is she so interested in the Krendel Warrior's bodies?' He pondered, only for an idea to pop up in his head.

"The Krendel Warriors were at level 7. So you can take them to the cafeteria for Yvonne. She should start experimenting with her Origin ability as quickly as possible. And while replenishing her mana, Yvonne might as well focus on learning how to control Mana.

This should be quite important for her in the future as well!"

After he said this, Dilan stood back and simply observed the entire battlefield for a few moments.

Some corpses were mutilated beyond measure. Hence, they couldn't be used for anything anymore.

With a sigh, Dilan could only tell one of the Ascenders to return to the cafeteria to get Bianne and everyone else to come over.

They had a big task at hand, sorting the corpses that were still usable, dismantling the hide of the monsters like the War Krendel to create leather armors that were hard enough to block the bites and scratches of lower leveled zombies and so on.

There was too much work to do. Thus, Dilan quickly lost track of time.

He was still tired but his Stamina recuperated faster than it could deplete thanks to his high Health stat.

Bianne had arrived a long time ago, followed by some reluctant Survivors that vomited the last remnants of their breakfast the moment they witnessed the state of the second floor's battleground.

Dilan and most of the others had ignored this reaction, but a batch of Ascenders came over to give them mental support.

Meanwhile, Yvonne was amongst the calmest, which astonished not only Kathrine, but also Dilan.

He had expected Yvonne to panic after probably having developed some severe trauma against everything that involved violence, blood and death.

But given her demeanor, she didn't seem to be all that bothered at the sight of the dead bodies.

"Is that because of her Origin ability's passive effect?" Kathrine mumbled when thinking about the only logical reason for Yvonne to be that eerily calm.

"I guess so..."

Dilan's answer was certainly not pleasing at that time, but when Yvonne simply made her way through the corpses to calmly approach the same Krendel Warriors, Kathrine and Dilan spoke about, they couldn't help but be certain that her instincts led her around.

This was quite interesting, but what amazed them was the way darkness currents emerged out of her hand.

At that moment, the temperature on the second hall had cooled down by several degrees, while the darkness currents were slowly finding their way towards the closest Krendel Warrior.

The corpse began to twitch, and the sound of bones breaking could be heard only for its legs to start twitching.

Meanwhile, Yvonne began to sweat profusely.

Her entire back was already drenched in sweat but her eyes were fully fixated on the corpse right in front of her as she mumbled.

"Arise, and serve me!"

Yvonne's voice was eerily cold, and Dilan could faintly perceive that her eyes had turned pitch-black for a second.

However, this felt like an illusion because the pitch-black color had disappeared in a millisecond when Dilan blinked his eyes.

“She is an ideal fit to become a Necromancer...” Dilan mumbled, wondering if Yvonne’s Origin ability would overlap with the Necromancer occupation, or if they would collide with one another.

Meanwhile, Dilan’s eyes flicked to the walking corpse of the Krendel Warrior.

He could clearly tell that if Yvonne learned to control herself properly, she would become extremely powerful, maybe even more powerful than himself.

But that was obviously something Dilan wouldn’t accept.

After all, he had his very own Origin ability and a very compatible occupation for this Origin ability.

And that was something Dilan knew even though the occupation of his choice didn’t really reveal anything about it to him!

#### Chapter 85 Krendel’s Underground Valley

It was ridiculous...in order to get to just move the status bar to 1% of his occupation, it looked like he had to absorb the Essence of 4 million Tierless Bronze monsters.

This was simply unreasonable, and not something one could achieve with normal means.

In fact, to reach 100%, 400 million Tierless Bronze Essence crystals were necessary, which was even less feasible.

It was pure insanity, to put it simply!

However, especially because it was so ridiculous, Dilan couldn’t help but think that there had to be an easier way to procure more Essence faster.

‘Maybe there is a unique way to attain a higher progression rate?’ He wondered.

The Common occupations of his Ancient Paths of Advancement were already filled, and Dilan could choose them.

But he didn’t even think of taking a second glance at them.

After all, Dilan knew that he could choose to become a Necromancer in the worst-case scenario.

It would progress much faster than Kirak’s Vassal’s progression bar, either way.

Nonetheless, Kirak’s Vassal progressed, which meant that it was everything that counted!.

Bianne was already taking a look at the bodies of the horned rats, Krendels, and all of their mutations and evolutions.

Due to her [Art of Cooking] passive ability, it was possible for Bianne to figure out if the mutated beasts’ meat was poisonous or not.

This was the first step in figuring out whether something was edible or not.

The only issue was the potency of Mana, which was something Bianne was able to research later.

“Let’s move as many corpses to the mortuary!” Bianne suggested before Oliver intercepted her by clearing his throat.

“Well it looks like you forgot that nothing in the hospital is working properly right now... you know, power outage?”

Dilan was unsure whether it was Oliver’s bad mood or that he simply didn’t like Bianne.

However, the way in which he spoke with her was rather rough.

But instead of minding this too much, Dilan was fully aware that a lack of power supply was their worst enemy right now.

After all, not even their fridges worked properly right now, which meant that their stored food and meat spoiled much faster than usual!

“Looks like it’s time to fix the electricity here!” Dilan mumbled, just to hear Kathrine next to him all of a sudden.

“I will take care of that. You should take care of this mess”

While speaking, she pointed toward the permanent Gate. Dilan understood what Kathrine wanted to point out, and he could only nod his head.

“If the third wave gets even worse, we will have quite a few problems.

The second one was already manifold worse than the first, where only small numbers of monsters emerged...

We have to find out more information about the time of the waves and if it was possible to prevent them from occurring...”

In the end, he was the one to speak out their thoughts even though both knew that it was not necessary.

However, even then, Dilan didn’t really feel comfortable about leaving the Rian mountainside hospital alone.

Kathrine and the others might still be there, but he had one particular issue which he had not shared with anyone before.

“What if a group of hostile Survivors was to enter the hospital once you solved the issue with the electricity? I mean it is quite obvious that there are Survivors inside a building that shines brightly in the darkness of Rian...”

When he was outside with Kathrine, Dilan had picked up quite a few hints about the existence of one huge, or several small groups of survivors.

But instead of saying something, he had remained silent because the clues he spoke about were, in fact, human corpses that had either been shot or pierced by something sharp.

The latter could have been the doings of Kobolds as well, but if that were to be the case, the head of the human corpses would have been pierced open as well.

After all, monsters wouldn't leave the Essence crystals behind!

His question was not really pointing out the specific clues he had found, but Kathrine was able to see through Dilan's poker face easily.

It was only obvious that she had sensed it as she had been with Dilan at that time.

As such, she had also seen a few clues to the existence of dangerous human groups.

The only difference between Kathrine and Dilan was that she didn't want to think that it was true at that time.

However, after what had happened to her sister and many other women on the fourth floor, her mindset had undergone many changes.

Thus, now her mind was eerily calm when she looked at Dilan.

"We, or I, will kill them!"

Afterward, she kept her ice-cold gaze trained on him, just to see the wandering corpse of the Krendel Warrior that followed Yvonne.

A faint smile emerged on her lips as her eyes cleared up.

"Believe me, if necessary I can kill all of them on my own, just go!"

Dilan could tell that every single word she said was true. Even if it was just for Yvonne's sake, Kathrine would never allow anyone with ill intentions to enter or even come close to their small shelter!

With that in mind, Dilan could only nod his head before proceeding to do what his gut feeling told him.

He pulled the Captain's Sword out of the body of the War Krendel he had killed with it before approaching the permanent Gate.

Each step he took reverberated through the entire huge hall, slowly drawing everyone's attention toward him.

From their point of view, it looked as if Dilan's body was heavy, and that he was being pulled down by something, something that held him back from doing whatever he wanted.

Yet, the closer he inched towards the permanent Gate, the lighter his weight became because the burdens that weighed on his shoulders seemed to be taken away from him.

When he reached the Gate, Dilan hesitated for a mere second before he took the final step through the bluish liquid mass.

It was as if lukewarm water shrouded his legs and entire body after taking the second step.

He disappeared from the sight of the others all of a sudden which made several Survivors feel as if Dilan had fled from the hard work, and his responsibilities.

However, just a moment later they shook their heads and called themselves stupid.

The Gate was the place where the wave of monsters came from.

As such, Dilan was certainly not fleeing from his responsibilities.

Rather he was taking them head-on while keeping everyone's safety in mind.

That was, at least, what everyone began to think about Dilan's action.

His true reasoning included whatever the Survivors thought, but there was far more to add, even if it was his selfish reasons.

But all of this turned trivial for Dilan as he emerged within a dark and humid place.

Even with torches and other sources of light, he could barely see anything.

And what he saw was certainly not something he had expected, not the moment he emerged in the Krendel's Underground Valley!

"Well, what exactly did I expect if the requirements to enter the Gate were to be at level 10 and to have all stats at 4?!"

He mumbled to himself, smiling lightly as his grasp around the Captain's Sword tightened, while a distinct glint of excitement emerged in his eyes.

Chapter 86 Limit

Dilan's gaze went around the hall he had entered. He looked even behind him, just to see that there was a huge slope.

Had it not been dark behind him, it should have been possible for him to see the wall that enclosed the underground valley.

'Looks like the only way to retreat is to return to the hospital'

Concluding that there was no way to move further in the valley, Dilan was just happy that he didn't sense any dangers from the darkness that shrouded parts of the slope.

Even if he was not actually able to see the wall behind him, it didn't take him much time to understand that he had emerged in the outermost parts of the valley's outskirts.

His smile could only brighten at this thought as Dilan mumbled,

"That only means I won't be attacked from the back...Great!!"

The moment he muttered the last word, a bright glint manifested in his eyes as he looked at the more than 20 War Krendels, and over 100 higher leveled mutated Krendels and horned rats!

If the fight that he awaited right now could be described as a massacre, the earlier fight was just a child's play in comparison.

And Dilan liked this way too much because he was in his best state, fully prepared to go all-out with all possible means!



After activating the [Thunder Step] ability, he attained an Agility of -20-. This made it possible to blast several meters ahead with a single strike even before the thunderous noise of the ability's activation resounded through the entire area.

The electricity currents enveloped his feet and the crackling stirred up the dirt and pebbles on the ground as he dashed through the vast hall.

His eyes gleamed brightly, and the grasp around the Captain's Sword tightened just to cut through the air at a rapid speed the moment Dilan simply flicked his wrist..

The longsword turned into a silverish-gray flash that cut through everything in its wake.

Blood, body parts, and organs splattered on the hospital floor, followed by the sky blue eyes of Dilan to gleam brightly.

"All of you...die for me!!"

\*\*

After a while, one could see a bloody massacre in the huge hall Dilan had emerged in.

There was only one living being that was left standing, and breathing lightly with an eerily crazy smile on his face.

"I...am the strongest!!"

Clenching his free hand, Dilan clearly felt the power that coursed through his body.

If he had already been powerful during the fight against the monsters of the second wave, his current state was simply shocking.

Not a single beast was able to cope with his Strength which was 13 times higher than that of the average human before the Primordial Ascension.

Meanwhile, there was not even the need to talk about his Speed after activating the [Thunder Step] ability because it was already too difficult for any monster to keep up with raw Agility stat of 15.4!

The [Thunder Step] ability was just another terrifying boost in his combat prowess.

It could be used in a versatile manner and was far more powerful than the [Violent Strike] active ability of Oliver.

Oliver might have it easier to upgrade his ability but Dilan was not worried about Oliver leaving him behind.

'Even if Oliver keeps bragging about his upgraded ability, and that it was extremely powerful now, it will be difficult to find a low tiered and powerful ability as the [Thunder Step] ability!'

While thinking about Oliver, and his upgraded abilities, Dilan couldn't help but feel like trying to look at the upgrade requirements for the [Thunder Step] ability.

Unfortunately, nothing happened when he tried to take a good look at it.

As such, he shrugged his shoulders before looking through the heap of corpses that were scattered on the ground around him.

Dilan was not sure how many monsters he killed so far but everything had been way too easy for him.

Even the War Krendels that had been slightly larger and more powerful than the ordinary War Krendels had been incapable of keeping up with his strength, let alone speed.

The only excitement Dilan felt from fighting the horned rats and Krendels was their huge number which gave him an increased chance to keep killing.

And it was only after he spent two more hours collecting all Essence crystals that he realized that he had indeed killed a huge number of beasts.

He stored away 10 Essence crystals of War Krendels, while the remaining ones had been absorbed by Dilan.

Everything seemed as usual, only for a surprising notification to pop up even before he received the information about the number of Essences he had absorbed in total, including how much his stats had improved.

[<Agility> Stat has reached the improvement limitation of a Tierless existence! Agility cannot be further improved without advancing to Tier-1, or without meeting special conditions!]

This message hit him off-guard because Dilan hadn't expected his Agility stat to be higher than high Health stat.

He had already figured that there should be a limit to Tierless existences. As such, it literally made no sense that 'Agility' was mentioned there, instead of his Health stat!

The only thing Dilan noticed in the notification was the 'special condition', which led him to take a proper look at the Log of the Ancient.

---

Name: [Dilan Cier]

Rank[Tierless (Level 10)]

Race [Human]

Occupation [None]

Title [None]

\*\*

Strength= [17.9] (+1.5)(+0.2)

Health= [24.6]

Stamina=[13.3]

Agility=[20]

Mana=[11.8]

Status Points to allocate→0.5

\*\*

-Origin ability-

[Regeneration] Tier-0 ★★★

-Active abilities (1/2)-

[Thunder Step] Tier-0 ★★★

-Passive abilities (1/5)-

[Immunity] Tier-0 ★

---

Only after Dilan spent more than five minutes staring at the Log of the Ancient, did two more notifications pop up right in front of him.

This startled him because they lit up the surroundings all of a sudden before he started to read through them with great interest.

[523 Essences and 76 Bronze Essences have been absorbed→ +6.4 Strength, +4.1 Health, +2.9 Stamina, +4.6(7.3) Agility, +1.4 Mana]

[Because the limit of the Agility stat has been reached, every additional status point in Agility will be converted into Essence!]

The second notification was something Dilan truly liked as it lead him to avert his focus to the progression bar of Kirak's Vassal!

<Kirak's Vassal> [0.000035%]

If his calculations were correct, it should be at [0.000025%] right now, but contrary to his expectations it was much higher.

'That means once all of my stats are higher, I can devour the Essence of Essence crystals in their entirety instead of a vast part being used to increase my stats?'

If this were to be true it meant that he didn't have to absorb 400 million Bronze Essence crystals, but that just a fraction of that huge number would already be enough!!

A bright smile emerged on his face with that thought in his mind.

It made him more eager to max out his other stats, which was why Dilan continued to pick up every single Essence crystal he could sense.

There were still a few more that he had yet to absorb, and he proceeded to do that hastily.

At the same time, his focus was on his Health stat that crossed the limits of a Tierless existence by more than four units!

'It should be owed to my Origin ability...It is probably one of the special conditions the notification mentioned!'

Chapter 87 Advanced Monster

\*\*

Strength= [20] (+1.5)(+0.2)

Health= [28]

Stamina=[20]

Agility=[20]

Mana=[20]

Status Points to allocate→0.5

\*\*

While absorbing one of the last Essence crystals, Dilan couldn't help but feel truly satisfied with the stats visible in his Log of the Ancient.

All of his stats had reached their limits. They had been maxed out, with his Health reaching the exact limit he thought it would attain.

"28 units...20 units...the difference is exactly the boost my Origin ability increases my Health stat!"

Dilan was curious if Origin abilities were the only special criteria to further increase someone's strength, and the more he thought about it the less like this was.

After all, the restriction of stats would make various passive abilities that boost certain stats, entirely useless!.

'Maybe some passive skills have unique characteristics that lift the restrictions to a certain extent?... I should ask Ella about further information when I return. Maybe she knows something!'

Picking up the last Essence crystal of a Mutated Three-armed Krendel Warrior, Dilan could clearly sense the vast and terrifically high amount of Essence that flooded his Essence pool.

The ordinary Essence crystal that would usually provide him with stat points turned into nourishment that was equal to Bronze Essence!

This was great, to put it simply, giving Dilan the reassurance he needed to keep pursuing Kirak's Vassal as his occupation's choice.

There were still quite a few things Dilan wanted to figure out, and his to-do list simply seemed to be never-ending.

However, amongst the most important tasks was to conquer the Krendel's Underground Valley.

He wanted to find out how to determine when Gate waves would happen, how to prevent them, and what exactly one could find within Gates.

This was why he was here, to begin with.

The new information about the Tierless stat limit was something he received as a bonus.

To add on, after his Health crossed 20 units, Dilan could upgrade his Origin ability once again.

He was only missing three lethal injuries to upgrade [Regeneration], which was something Dilan could easily do, even more so with his current stats!

Only injuring himself would be slightly more difficult because his physique was much stronger and tougher than ever before.

'I can think about this issue once I'm done here.'

Thus, he turned in a particular direction with the aim to approach the center of the underground valley as quickly as possible.

Taking one step after another, he slowly made his way in the designated direction.

There he had to pass through a tunnel that was lit up by numerous torches lined across the walls on either side.

The ordinary horned rats and Krendels that Dilan passed by avoided him by all means.

He noticed this after his fight against the monsters of the Gate's second wave.

Sensing his presence and strength, it was possible for the horned rats, Krendels, and their mutations to understand that they were no match for him.

As such, it was only logical for them to give him a wide berth.

But this was not what all the beasts did because the most important task of the higher leveled monsters was to protect the inner sanctum of the underground valley.

To their misfortune, it was to no avail as they died with a single slash of Dilan's sword.

It was not even necessary for him to evade any kind of monster as even the strongest one he encountered had its highest stat around seven, maybe eight Units!

He had no idea if all kinds of beings had different limits on how high their stats could reach as Tierless existences, but the most important difference in the combat strength of monsters was whether they were ordinary existences or Bronze monsters!

Paving his way through the large tunnel that spanned merely a hundred meters or so, Dilan entered a second huge hall.

However, when Dilan took a look at the scenery around him, he felt a little bit weird.

Once again the ceiling, walls, and everything further away were shrouded in darkness.

This made it difficult for him to see anything beyond a radius of 50 meters, but that was more than enough because he could sense the presence of a particular monster!

In the huge hall, there were more than 1000 monsters in total, but only one attracted his attention.

It was a four-meter-tall rat with long legs, muscular arms, and a curved furry back that covered its lean, yet also somewhat toned physique.

With razor-sharp, 30-centimeter-long claws, and two huge sabertooth, it already looked fierce.

However, that was not the most prominent feature of the creature. What made it stand out apart from its already fierce look was a purplish horn that protruded out of the center of its furry forehead and had lightning currents swirling around it.

The moment Dilan entered the huge hall, the huge rat saw him. It first looked at him with a trace of interest.

But when it smelled the blood of its brethren on Dilan's clothes and the Captain's sword's blade, it let out a high-pitched squeal, revealing its fury.

Through this, the lightning currents turned into a riot, shrouding the rat's face like a mask.

This looked not only eerie but also fascinating. However, even before Dilan was able to assess the Lightning rat properly, it went on its four feet before catapulting towards him.

'Fast!'

In an instant, Dilan knew that the Lightning rat's Agility was close to his, and the fact that it might even be faster than him the moment at its highest speed.

It was not shocking for such an existence to appear right in front of him, but this indicated one thing- The lightning rat was certainly not a Bronze monster, and most likely was a being that had undergone its first advancement!

His gaze swept through the hall and Dilan understood that no other monster dared to attack him.

Whether this was owing to their fear of Dilan or simply the instinctive behavior to back off from the lightning rat's rage was unclear.

Instinctively, Dilan activated the [Thunder Step] ability by utilizing one unit of Mana. A thunderous sound echoed through the entire hall.

He pushed his feet off the ground with all his might. This allowed him to reach a terrifying speed in an instant as he pushed past his former limits.

With an Agility that was equivalent to 26 times the average human before the Primordial Ascension, Dilan's speed could be described as nothing less than terrifying.

By leaning forward, he faced an even lesser wind resistance, allowing him to reach an even higher speed as he appeared in front of the Lightning rat at once.

Both didn't even think about slowing down, which was why both knew that their first clash was likely to be the only necessary clash to determine the winner.

Victory would be decided in an instant, and Dilan was confident that his Agility was more than enough to turn him into a winner.

However, the moment the distance between Dilan and the Lightning rat reduced to less than ten meters, the Lightning rat began to make multiple moves at once.

First, it spread out both arms, its claws glinting in the light that was ready to slash at Dilan, who was only wielding his longsword.

This would already be one disadvantage he ought to face head-on, but it was not the only one because the Lightning rat was just beginning to reveal its traits.

A bolt of lightning was being manifested around the purplish horn of the Lightning rat.

Dilan could clearly sense this owing to his experience with lightning.

He had to thank Kathrine inwardly because of the minuscule traces of mana one could sense before a bolt of lightning was fully formed, and the sudden change in the atmosphere that would make the skin tingle lightly during the process of the lightning bolt's creation was something Dilan was quite familiar with.

However, even if he could conclude what was bound to happen, the Lightning rat prevented him from evading each of its attacks, despite being faster.

'I cannot change my direction because that would slow me down. Jumping to the right or left would definitely lead to a lethal injury caused by the huge claws...alright...then I'm just going straight ahead!!'

In a matter of milliseconds, Dilan came to a conclusion about what he was going to do next.

And with this conclusion in mind, he had to abandon the Captain's Sword.

Maybe abandoning was the wrong word, but Dilan's mind was buzzing in excitement as he noticed that the bolt of lightning was about to be formed.

Now the distance between the two of them was less than five meters, and they were about to clash in a fraction of a second!

However, just when the bolt of lightning was about to be fired when they were merely three meters apart, the rapid movement of Dilan changed everything!

Chapter 88 Silver

A fraction of a second before the huge Lightning rat shot the bolt of lightning at Dilan, a silverish-gray flash flew threw the air.

It was the Captain's Sword Dilan had thrown at the Lightning rat with all his might.

Just a moment ago Dilan had pulled the Captain's Sword over his shoulder. This was something mandatory in order to generate the necessary momentum he required.

Through this, it was possible for him to further enhance the might of his extraordinary Agility and Strength when he threw his longsword at the monster that was merely three meters away from him.

When the longsword reached the Lightning rat, its blade pierced through the center of its chest.

It had been unable to evade the sudden attack owing to Dilan's terrifically high speed!

However, instead of killing the monster, his longsword only managed to gravely injure it.

Despite that, it continued to attack him as if it was completely unscathed.

The bolt of lightning was released while both of the rat's arms swung through the air.

Each attack was aimed to deliver a killing blow, and the might behind the attacks was more than enough to achieve this.

Even Dilan's Health stat of -28- would have fallen short to block them!.

Fortunately, his sudden attack with the throw of his longsword forcefully averted the trajectory of the bolt of lightning as the rat's involuntarily flinched.

This made it lose its control over the bolt of lightning that was released a fraction of a second too early and at the wrong spot.

While Dilan was already right in front of the lightning rat, the bolt of lightning brushed past his head.

Fluctuations of the bolt of lightning brushed past Dilan, grazing the left side of his face, and his left shoulder, but he ignored the sting.

After all, the attack that was supposed to burst his skull had missed its mark.

The claws of the Lightning rat were still out for his life, but Dilan was standing just a meter in front of its body.

This was fortunately not too close for Dilan to extend his arms rapidly.

He spread open his fingers in an instant, reaching the upper chest of the Lightning rat, just to glance into the eyes of the monsters for a mere moment.

The lightning mask transformed slowly and was about to turn into currents that would lunge at him at any moment.

However, before that could happen, Dilan inserted several units of mana in the Clawed Gloves to greatly enhance them.

Under normal circumstances, it shouldn't be possible to enhance a weapon over a certain threshold.

But that was not something Dilan could be bothered about as he used a significantly high amount of mana to tear open the Lightning rat with his Clawed Gloves.

That was everything Dilan cared about which was why he pierced into the Lightning rat's chest with every single claw on his hand.



Working with the gravitational force, Dilan used all his might to drag the claws all the way down, tearing its chest open.

It was as if he cleaved down with a sword, but instead of a blade, his sharp gloves bit into the flesh of the opponent that continued to thrash its arms wildly.

While his Clawed Gloves dug deep in the Lightning rat's chest, it was almost as if the monster lost all its reasoning and the pain sensors went numb.

Not even a pained squeal escaped its mouth as the Lightning mask turned into a replica of a beast maw that tried to mercilessly bite Dilan's head.

This sudden change in the lightning's shape astonished him.

But instead of evading, Dilan tightened his grip, using his claws to sink deeper into the chest of the Lightning rat, just to push his feet off the ground.

Rather than working against the Lightning rat to try slowing it down in order to initiate a barrage of attacks, Dilan clung to its body!

The Clawed Gloves dug deeper and deeper in its body, though it was still standing on its feet. Hence, Dilan pushed his leg back and shoved his foot hard into its abdomen.

It didn't result in massive damage, but it was more than enough to prevent the Lightning rat from actually biting off his head.

This was everything he wanted to attain, to begin with!

As such a small victorious smile appeared on his lips, only for him to think amusingly.

'I really need some thorny boots! Or boots with knives in their toe cap!'

The fact that Dilan could joke like this was quite simple.

The monster he fought was not as terrifying as he had imagined.

It was either a lower-ranked monster that had advanced to Tier-1, or the strongest existing Bronze Tierless monster.

However, Dilan was actually doubting that the monster he faced could be considered the leader of the Krendel's Underground Valley.

And that was not only because the Lightning rat was not a Krendel...but also owing to its strength which was not even remotely comparable to what Dilan had thought of!

'Maybe I expected too much?' Dilan asked himself as he clenched his hands, ripping out two huge chunks of flesh out of the lightning rat's chest.

This caused the first pained roar to escape the lightning rat's mouth.

It shook its body violently, making Dilan lose his grip onto the Lightning rat

Instinctively his bloodied hands reached for the Captain's Sword which they got hold of a mere moment later.

However, Dilan's legs lost their foothold on the Lightning rat's body. Thus, they were dragged over the ground, preventing him from creating a new opportunity to attack.

But that was not further problematic because the monster had slowed down, with its claws still trying to slash at Dilan.

The lightning rat wanted to take Dilan's life, to make him feel the pain it had to endure right now and make him suffer.

Fortunately, Dilan's feet got hold on the ground, while the excessive amount of mana within the Clawed Gloves was directly transferred to the Captain's Sword.

The longsword's blade began to gleam in a faint bluish color that led to an increase in its sharpness.

This increase in the blade's sharpness was enough to cut through the Lightning rat's body, further deepening the already existing wound caused by his claws.

Using all his might Dilan tore down the Captain's Sword.

This was extremely difficult owing to the fact that his current stance was everything but comfortable, even less considering that the beast's lightning currents had reached his face, and were scorching his skin, while its claws came into contact with his back, and attempted to tear it open.

To the monster's misery, all its efforts were wasted because Dilan's strength was all it took to turn a five-centimeter cut into a huge gash of more than 30 centimeters, where the Lightning rat's blood and guts spilled out.

In a matter of seconds, Dilan's entire body was smeared with bits of organs and the horrible stench of the rat's blood.

He had never smelled anything as foul as the blood that was all over his body.

Even Dilan's iron-like gut couldn't handle the overwhelming putrid smell which made him almost puke.

Only the fact that the Lightning rat collapsed on the ground allowed Dilan to hold it in.

The thought that he would be able to procure the Essence of a powerful beast such as the Lightning rat drove him ahead.

It made him ignore the pain of his half-burned face, and the deep gashes on his back.

However, what he saw when he was able to break open the Lightning rat's skull astonished him quite a bit.

"Silver...? What the hell is going on?!"

Chapter 89 Mine

Silver Essence swirled through the crystal Dilan pulled out of the Lightning rat's head.

“A Silver Essence crystal...does that mean Bronze monsters were not the strongest?”

It was quite easy to guess that Silver Essence was much stronger than Bronze Essence. Dilan felt as if his body was being nurtured by solely just coming in contact with the crystal.

This was quite a surprise, which led him to absorb the Silver Essence crystal in an instant.

[<Silver> Essence of Tierless Level 10 Lightning Shiroa Rat has been absorbed→ Host cannot gain more status points]

Instead of receiving status points, Dilan received enormous amounts of Essence.

The quantity was so huge that it made him frown because his body was being flooded with the Essence of the Lightning Shiroa rat.

But that was not the most important because he was way too baffled about the fact that the Lightning Shiroa Rat was not existence at Tier-1, but that it was only a Tierless Silver monster!!

‘So...Silver monsters are that strong? Or was it just this one? Its stats were almost comparable to mine, and I’m certain that its claws are sharper than my weapons!’

Dilan knew as a matter of fact, that each of the Lightning Shiroa Rat’s means of attack was far stronger than Dilan’s.

This was something exciting, even more so because he had killed this monster just a moment ago!

The fight had been quite weird and prolonged but only the final result was what truly mattered at the end of the day..

To some extent, he relied on his superior stats to overpower the Lightning Shiroa Rat, but he had also used his flexibility and smaller body to his advantage.

Furthermore, with the use of the [Thunder Step] ability, and the fact that he wielded a weapon, everything became far easier, and more interesting.

<Kirak’s Vassal> [0.50005%]

“Half a percentage for a whole Silver essence crystal...”

Even if Dilan was astonished about this, the wounds on his back and his scorched face made it quite clear that he hadn’t been able to overwhelm the Lightning Shiroa rat, but that it was an extremely close battle.

Considering the high stats of the Tierless Silver monster, Dilan figured that all of its stats should have been maxed out as well.

But even if that was the case, it was odd. There had to be a more powerful monster than the Lightning Shiroa rat.

And with that in mind, Dilan couldn’t help but take a look around.

The number of monsters in his surroundings was vast, and he knew that it would take some time for his injuries to be healed.

Even with the use of the Origin ability, resting for an hour should be the least he could do to recuperate properly.

However, instead of resting and letting his body recuperate in a normal manner, Dilan chose to spend the next three hours exterminating the strongest ordinary monster and all the Bronze monsters he could find.

At the same time, he replenished his mana by actively pulling mana currents toward him.

In the underground valley of the Krendels the amount of mana was at least, three times higher than what the permanent Gate radiated.

This made it easier for Dilan to absorb a good quantity of mana.

Because he had yet to learn quite a lot about mana, and he shortened the replenishing period of one Mana unit even further.

With his Origin ability utilized three times, and a high Health stat, three hours were more than enough to fully tend to his wounds.

Normally there would be the possibility of dirt and bacteria infecting his fully tended wound, but he didn't have to worry about it owing to his passive [Immunity] ability!

After three hours had passed Dilan's backpack was filled with around 50 Bronze Essence crystals, more than 40 claws of War Krendels, the Lightning Shiroa rat's claws, and its horn.

The numerous other Essences had been absorbed by Dilan, who left a bloody battlefield behind.

Each monster that crossed his path was killed with a single clash, while its Essence was easily absorbed.

This made things much easier for Dilan, who focused on exploring the surrounding in a detailed manner.

Simultaneously, he filled his Essence pool with as much essence as possible to advance the progression bar of the Kirak's Vassal occupation as quickly as possible.

But even if the ordinary and Bronze Essences helped him a lot, they were not even remotely comparable to the Lightning Shiroa rat's Silver Essence.

With that in mind, Dilan's eyes subconsciously started searching for more Silver monsters.

In his first encounter with the Lightning Shiroa rat, he figured out its fighting style.

This would make things much easier for the next battle if he were to find another one of them.

Unfortunately, even after he ignored the other monsters in his surroundings, he didn't come across even one more Silver monster.

This forced him to switch to exterminating Bronze monsters and absorbing their Essence.

Several hours passed before Dilan noticed that he had lost his way through the underground valley.

Despite being called a valley, it was more like a giant network of numerous tunnels that were connected with one another.

It made things far more difficult than being in an actual valley as he passed through more than ten tunnels to try to figure out where he was right now.

And as he looked around intently, he realized that it resembled a mine.

There was a huge lit-up entrance numerous monsters passed through.

The entrance was filled with crystals that gleamed in various colors, turning them into the source of light around the cavern entrance.

'They're shining so brightly... If I can procure some of them, it should be possible for us to go out hunting during the night as well!'

Dilan got an idea at the sight of the brightly glowing crystals. However, he couldn't prove the theory he had in mind because this would require him to touch the crystals.

For now, Dilan didn't want to attract too much attention because what he saw was the first sign of the Krendels and horned rats working together. The beasts were diligently mining the crystals and the various other ores that could be found inside the cave.

From the looks of it the cave he found was a treasure trove of extremely valuable crystals. Dilan felt like it would be great to search for a forge and a blacksmith after leaving the underground valley.

In fact, the entire valley seemed to be of extreme value for the entire group consisting of Dilan.

He had killed more than a thousand monsters in the underground valley, but nobody seemed to have noticed anything.

This was not only weird, but Dilan could also tell that the number of monsters he spotted showed no signs of decreasing.

Rather, to him, it looked like the number of Krendels and horned rats were far higher than expected.

'Are they reproducing like rabbits, have they been living here for a very long time, or is the plane within a Gate comparable to a dungeon, where monsters respawn after a certain period?'

Dilan was actually not sure about the truth behind the existence of the Gates, let alone their functions.

As such, the only thing he was able to do was to take a guess.

And by guessing a lot, Dilan reached the conclusion that there should be a clear difference between temporary and permanent Gates.

There should be some significant difference between the two, except for the period of time they remained at a certain place.

Unfortunately, he had yet to find out what exactly it was.

He could only smile nevertheless.

After all, he had found the paradise for the other Survivors to level up and gain numerous status points!

Other than Krendels that walked around with pickaxes, and horned rats that walked around with baskets on their back, there were also other types of monsters!

If his eyes weren't failing him, there were crystalized Earthworms, Armadillos, and Bats inside the cave.

And all of them had one particular, ordinary type of monster with more than eight mutations, and several types of Bronze monster evolutions.

Upon seeing so many types of monsters, Dilan could tell that Oliver and the others would have it quite easy to level up.

The only thing they required would be a slight push in their stats which was not further difficult as long as Dilan stood by their side.

However, before thinking about helping others level up, Dilan had to focus on himself.

All of his thoughts were focused on strengthening his entire group which made him forget that many problems might occur the moment others would advance to Tier-1, while he was still focused on collecting Essence to fill the progression bar of his occupation.

It would bring forth too many issues, which was why Dilan averted his attention to a specific group of beasts he had spotted just a moment ago.

'Are they fighting...or just sparring?'

Chapter 90 Reaping the spoils

Four monsters seemed to be fighting in the deeper parts of the cavern entrance.

They had yet to go inside one of the numerous tunnels that could be seen at the end of the cavern entrance, but the distance between the four monsters and Dilan was still more than three hundred meters.

The entrance of the cave was massive and more than four hundred meters tall, over twenty meters in height, and almost a hundred meters in width.

If the valley's hall wouldn't be much broader, and the ceiling several times higher, Dilan would have thought that the cavern entrance was, in fact, one of the valley's halls.

However, that was not the case simply because the size of the halls was manifold more than the cavern entrance.

'Why does a valley even have a hall, to begin with. This entire place makes no sense.'

Dilan sighed before shaking his head, dispelling this thought.

After taking a good look around, Dilan took his first steps in the entrance.

He stayed close to the walls so as to hide from being discovered by anyone, and used the darkness to his advantage.

However, that trick wasn't going to work against the earthworms and bats because they didn't rely on their sight to detect other beings.

But that was not something Dilan was truly worried about.

After all, the only monsters that could endanger his life were the four fighting beasts ahead of him.

They were either ordinary Tier-1 monsters or Silver monsters similar to the Lightning Shiroa rat.

Approaching them slowly while taking cover behind the small areas that were shrouded in darkness, or behind large rocks, Dilan reduced the huge distance and was now in the range of 50 meters to the closest of the four monsters.

While the weaker monsters seemed rather unbothered about the fight that occurred in the corner of the cavern entrance, some of the more powerful Bronze monsters eyed everything with great interest.

They hoped to be able to jump in at the right opportunity and to reap numerous benefits if they were to be able to procure even one Essence crystal of the four monsters..

But even if they gazed at them for several days, nothing serious was about to happen.

The four monsters were fighting to claim the territory of the tunnel on the farthest left.

Either, there was something special about the said tunnel, or the four monsters wanted to expand their territory.

In the end, Dilan didn't really care about their reasons for fighting.

What was more important was that the four monsters injured each other. Some injuries were, in fact, quite serious as they restricted the monster's movement.

The noises the monsters made were quite loud. As such, Dilan didn't really have to be that silent as he kept looking at the four monsters.

The more than 15-meter-long Earthworm was coiled around the Armadillo that had curled up to protect itself from the attacks.

Meanwhile, an ear-piercing soundwave reverberated through the cave, bouncing off the cave walls that amplified its sound even further. It was the three-meter-long bat that had attacked a silver-scaled Lizard with a soundwave.

Unable to block the attack, the Lizard's ears ruptured and began to bleed while it lost its footing and swayed dangerously.

However, instead of attacking the bat, the Silver scale lizard turned its attention to the Earthworm and Armadillo.

Approaching them with staggering steps, it let out a hiss. The silver eyes of the Silver scale lizard began to gleam, just for it to turn its head towards the bat all of a sudden.

From its previous indifference to the large-winged bat despite its attack, the Silver scale lizard's thirst for the bat's blood filled the entire room as its silver pupils enlarged.

A moment later even Dilan could sense that something big was happening.

The bat suddenly froze in place.

And it was only then that Dilan realized that he had mistaken something.

'How the hell could I think that they were just fighting to expand their territory?! They're obviously out for each other's Essence!!'

Dilan had expected mere monsters to display too much intelligence.

Thus, he mistook their intentions as he believed that they would leave each other alive so as to safeguard their territory.

After all, a known enemy is better than not knowing who lives next to you, how strong your neighbor is, and what intentions your neighbor has!

But that didn't seem important to the four monsters because they would rather strengthen themselves than to think strategically.

Yet, when he gave it some more thought, Dilan couldn't help but feel that this was also a decent tactic.

As long as your strength exceeds everyone else's you would be fine, after all!

However, there was one big downside to the current battle, which was someone's interference!

While the Armadillo suddenly erupted in blazing flames that emerged on its armor-like bone plates, the Earthworm screeched in pain.

This sound was ear-piercing, but Dilan couldn't care about it at all.

He activated the [Thunder Step] ability by utilizing three units of mana at once. His agility had now reached a level that was 26 times that of the average human before the Primordial Ascension while his Strength was close to 22 units owing to the enhancement he received thanks to his equipment.

In a single second, Dilan crossed the distance of 50 meters as he used every last ounce of strength within his body.

The thunderous noise his ability caused was directly noticed, followed by his dominating presence.

However, as the Earthworm and Armadillo were currently tightly intertwined, the Silver scale lizard tore apart one of the large-winged bat's wings.

On the other hand, the large-winged bat emitted another shockwave straight into the ear of the Silver scale lizard, severely injuring it.

As such, not even a single beast was willing to pay attention to him- the real threat that appeared out of the shadows!

With three monsters that had rather strong defenses, Dilan knew that he had to kill them in a single strike each by attacking their vital spots.

This was something he was never good at because his combat style was anything but refined.

Fortunately, brute force and his combat experience were everything he required against the monsters ahead.



The closest beast to him was the large-winged bat and the Silver scale lizard.

When Dilan had catapulted himself 50 meters ahead, he emerged right in front of the Silver scale lizard.

It looked at him threateningly and was ready to activate the same ability it had used against the large-winged bat.

However, it was unable to keep up with Dilan's terrifically high speed, and the fact that its brain had suffered an injury owing to the soundwave the bat had fired right in his eyes.

Being severely injured, the Silver scale lizard could only try its best to activate its ability.

To its misery, a gray flash slashed its left eye with a speed it was unable to evade.

Dilan had lunged out with the Captain's Sword using his tremendous momentum to pierce straight through the Silver scale Lizard's eye and skull.

At the same moment, the large-winged bat flapped both of its wings, while opening its mouth.

It tried to escape using the moment of distraction to its benefit.

However, Dilan was not distracted, at all.

He was ready to kill both of his opponents in the same instant, which was why his free hand reached for the large-winged bat's head.

His Clawed Gloves sunk into the bat's throat before it could utter a sound.

Their sharpness and toughness were increased owing to the mana he inserted into the left Clawed Glove.

And this was more than enough to kill the large-winged bat in an instant.

His Strength multiplied with his high Agility was simply too terrifying!

But even if he killed two of the powerful monsters in an instant, Dilan was not yet done.

Due to the short interference of the two monsters his speed had slowed down quite a bit.

However, that was not a problem because the Earthworm and Armadillo were currently at each other's throat already.

Unfortunately, he couldn't simply watch them continue fighting. After all, he wanted to absorb every single trace of their Essence, which meant that he had to kill them by himself!

In a smooth motion, he tore both his left hand and the Captain's Sword out of the monsters he had just killed before he advanced.

A single push with all his might was enough to cross a distance of several meters.

Clearly understanding his strength, he pounced at the huge Earthworm, whose entire body was flaring up like a firecracker.

Dilan's clothes caught on some of the flames as well, but instead of minding this, he reached the Earthworm's upper body which he pierced with the Clawed Gloves.

The Earthworm had a dirt-like layer covering its entire body.

As such, only its mouth which acted as a shredder was easy to injure.

And this was exactly the fact Dilan made use of.

It was dangerous for his hand to pierce inside the Earthworm. However, owing to its distracted and injured state it was just getting to know that he even existed.

After sensing his presence, it was about to turn his hand into shreds of skin, flesh, and bone fragments but before it could do so Dilan had finally twisted the Captain's longsword.

Twisting his longsword while being on the back of the Earthworm had been rather difficult.

That was why he took a moment to finish his preparations.

But the moment the Captain's Sword pierced into the huge mouth of the Earthworm, it began to thrash harder than before.

The pain it felt was unbearable, and it didn't last that long...after all once one was dead, pain lost all its meaning!

Letting go of the Captain's Sword, Dilan staggered back a bit as he felt flames licking his skin after burning through his clothes.

In reaction to this, he activated [Regeneration] just to fall to the ground while grasping the body of the armadillo.

It was thrice the size of an ordinary armadillo with blazing flames that shrouded its bony plates, and it looked as if it was ready to fight now that the Earthworm died.

However, the moment it saw that Dilan held on to it tightly while gritting his teeth as he endured the pain of the flames eating away at his skin, the armadillo knew that it hadn't been saved.

Instead, it was about to die, which happened just a few seconds later as its entire body was being pulled apart in two opposite directions.

Not even coiling up helped anymore because Dilan grasped its bony plates before ripping them out of the armadillo's body.

A moment later, he pierced through the armadillo, reaching its intestines, and heart which he squashed without hesitation.

Taking deep breaths, when the fourth monster died, he barely sensed that the flames lost their vigor after their creator met its death. They dispersed into thin air as if they had never existed.

Dilan was quite happy about this, as he could breathe freely while activating his Origin ability over and over again.

At the same time, he could look at the corpses around him, just to sense that several dozen Bronze monsters were greedily staring at him and the corpses.

“If you want to come at me, don’t stop...it’s now or never!”