Rebirth Online - A New Beginning
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table of content</th>
<th>1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prologue</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st login – A New Beginning</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd login – The One Called Master</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd login – Monthly Event</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Epilogue</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Author’s note</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extra login – Rebirth Online Introduction Manual</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Don’t you think that life in this world is a little bit boring? People talks to someone they know every day, pretending that they are friends. In reality they are doing such things just for their own convenience. Tell to each other that they are friends. Just for a sole reason, so they can take advantage from the other party.

I realized these things since I entered high school. It is true that I was an introvert. I was not an outgoing person, but I can survive in the community. I prefer reading book and playing games, rather than exercising or doing outdoor sports. I didn’t talk much, only when I needed to. But maybe that’s why they decided to pick on me.

One day I was bullied by my upperclassmen. My best friend was at the scene. I called out to him, asking for help. But he just passes by like I was some stranger that he met at the road. The next day at school he said that he was sorry, because there is nothing that he can do.

We have been spending times together since middle school. Hanging out together, doing homework, cheat our way out trough exams, and playing games together. We are close. Or so I thought. So this is how the community works.

People in this world, they are reeks of evil. They only care about their self. Money and power is what they seek. They are a hypocrite if they said they are doing charity because of love. They are doing it so people will have better opinion about them. This world has rotten too much. I don’t have the power to change this world. I never even dream about changing this world.

So what should I do? I don’t have any other place to go. I wander around aimlessly until I stop by a large screen TV in front of a shopping mall.

“Behold the new era of gaming. With $\text{Syder (synapse reader)}$ implemented on the system, Rebirth Online will be the first $\text{VRMMORPG (Virtual Reality Massively Multiplayer Online Role Playing Game)}$ in the world. The pre-order sales have gone through 500,000 units and will be shipped all around the world tomorrow, along with the first launch of the server. People who don’t apply for the pre-order can buy them tomorrow at FFAID Corporation building in Akihabara at 7:00am. Luckily, we have Dr. Hans Schneider here with us; please let us welcome the person that invented the $\text{Syder}$, as our guest for the interview tonight.” The beautiful newswoman said it enthusiastically on the TV.

“Dr. Hans, tell me about the $\text{Syder}$. Isn’t it just recently invented and haven’t been properly accepted by various medical organization around the world? Even the rumor says that it possess a threat to the brain.” the newswoman asking with full of curiosity.

“The WHO (World Health Organization) already acknowledges it as a safe and usable product. Otherwise we may not be able to sell it. The $\text{Syder}$ itself doesn’t do anything to the brain so it couldn’t damage it. As the name implies, $\text{Syder}$ is a synapse reader. Our five senses, touch, sight, hearing, taste, smell even our sense to temperature, pain, balance, time, and kinesthetic is controlled by the brain. This starts when a neuron receives an impulse and
they transmitted it to the brain. They transmitted it in a form of electricity through a connective tissue named synapse which connects one neuron to the other neuron. When this electricity processed in the brain, we often read it as a brain wave. So Syder makes it possible for us to read and send images to the brain of the virtual world.” explain Dr. Hans who seemed can’t stop talking.

This is it. This is the answer to my entire question. I just have to run away to another world. I just have to run away to that world.
Clear sky can be seen at Setagaya city. The sun is shining bright, telling people that summer is near. That day, in the big building of Sakuramachi high school; a boy is looking out through the window.

He looks like just a regular high schooler boy, around 17 years old. His skin looks rather pale but it matches his wavy black hair and grey eyes. His body is pretty short if you compare to anyone around his age, and he is also pretty thin. To make it simple, he is just your regular high schooler boy.

“The sun is so bright. The sky is so clear. The birds are flying happily outside the window. But here I am trapped in this classroom. This life is so boring. I already ordered a Syder last month but it hasn’t arrived yet.” He was talking to himself and let out a sigh.

“What are you looking at Hikaru? You’re staring at nothing the whole time.” Someone greets him from behind, surprising him. He almost fell of the chair because of that.

“Aaah... Kongou, you scare the hell out of me.” Hikaru said while regaining his balance.

“So, what are you spacing out for?” ask Kongou.

Kongou is Hikaru best friend. They have been together since elementary school. Kongou is taller than Hikaru. He is in the school soccer club. Because of that, his skin is darker than Hikaru. He also has an ideal body proportion for an athlete. His short brown hair and his sharp black eyes, giving him a reliable look.

“I’m just thinking... We’re still at the lunch break. It is still a long way to go until we got home.” Hikaru replied to his friend question.

“Hahaha... You’re right, but look at the bright sight. Two more days and we’ll have our summer break.” Kongou answers to cheer his friend.

“I wonder when our Syder will arrive. I can’t wait to play Rebirth Online.” Hikaru said as he looks outside.

RO (Rebirth Online) is one of the most played online games right now. The pre-order have gone through 500,000 players, and now, 3 months after it launches the user have gone through 1 million worldwide.

It was the first VRMMORPG that signed an exclusive contract to use the Syder. That makes it to be the most anticipated games right now. It takes time to have 1 million user. Because the production of each Syder have to be done carefully.

Rebirth Online is a game from FFAID Corporation. Beside the new implemented virtual reality graphics, its game system also seem to be much more balanced than any other games. The classes available are all interesting and the wide varieties of monster become another selling point.
Just then, a text from Hikaru mom came in.

“Hikaru, your package has arrived.”

“Yes... Finally... At last...”

Hikaru stand up from his chair and shout loudly. But a few seconds later, he is embarrassed. The whole class is staring at him right now. He decided to look at his friend Kongou. But Kongou was shouting too while looking at his phone.

*I guess his Syder has arrived too...* Hikaru muttered to himself.

“Do you have it already Hikaru?”

“Yes, my mom just sent me a text. We will login tonight right Kongou?”

“Of course... Finally, our Syder arrive...”

“Oooh... I can’t wait to get home and play.”

“What class are you going to take Hikaru?”

“I don’t know yet Kongou. But it seems like I will take the swordsman class. It’s really cool if I can be a knight. Like the hero in the TV. Fighting trough enemy, sweeping them down with my broadsword. “He said that while imitating the gesture from the anime he always watched.

“What about you Kongou?”

“If you’re going to be a knight, I will make an archer or a caster. You will need someone to support you right? And that is my job.” Kongou says that with his thumbs up.

“Yeah... But probably I will need a lot of support then. Hahaha...” Hikaru answered to tease him.

With the excitement in his heart, Hikaru get past trough the classes quickly. He then rushed his way to his home.

“I’m home. Mom, where is my package?” Hikaru asked with full of curiosity.

“I put it on the table, but you cannot open it unless you change your clothes and finished the meal that I have prepared for you.” Her mother says that while coming out of the kitchen.

His mother is in her late thirty, but her beauty will make younger woman envy. Her slender and tall figure is just like a model. Her long black hair and grey eyes is just looks like Hikaru.

“Okay...” He replies quickly. After changing clothes, he go to the kitchen. He grab a sandwich from the table and a carton of milk from the refrigerator. He finished the sandwich in the blink of an eye and then gulped down the milk. As if he doesn’t need to breathe.
“I’m done. Ugh...” he is eating, drinking, and talking too fast. He almost chokes himself there.

After that, he takes his package and return back to his room. He opened the package and examines the content. Inside the package there is a black box made from metal in a size of a toaster, one manual book for Rebirth Online, and a device that looks like a helmet for space pilot.

“Is this the Syder?” Hikaru looks confused.

The helmet isn’t too thick but has several light sensors on it. In the back of the helmet you can see a cord that is connected to the black box. He doesn’t know what to do next and decided to read the manual book.

He opens the book and found the setting up guide. It says to connect the black box to the power source. After that, plug the network cable to the back of the black box. Put in your helmet, find a relaxed position (lying down is recommended), and then turn on the power from the black box. The last step is closing your eyes.

It seems easy. He sets up the network cable, plug in the power cord, equipped the helmet, and lying down on his bed. With anticipation he pressed the power button.

“Eeh... Nothing special...” He said with disappointment.

He then decided to close his eyes. Then, some weird texts start popping out in his mind.

Setting up the Syder for the first time. Welcome player to the world of Rebirth Online. For the first time set up it may take for a while. We will adjust the Syder to your brain waves preferences. Once it is synchronized, we will take you to the creation room.

The texts then disappear and new texts start popping out.

“Five sense checking: smell.”

When the words smell comes out he can smell a sweet taste of a milk tea in front of his nose. After that, besides the smell text check marks appear.

“Five sense checking: taste.”

At the same time he can feel a candy that’s really sweet inside his mouth. Another check marks appear.

“Five sense checking: sound.”

He then starts to hear the sound of water in the sea and another check appears.

“Five sense checking: touch.”
When the text came up, he feels a shiver run down his neck. He can feel that somebody is touching all around his body. It only happened for a few seconds and another check mark pop out.

“Five sense checking: sight.”

Just for a few second, a bright light shine in front of him. He tries to close his eyes, but it is closed already. The light then changes color to red, green, and blue. After that, another check marks appear.

The screen is then cleared and another text came out.

“Finalizing the setting up guide, advanced senses test will be started.”

He then starts to hear a girl’s voice.

“Can you hear me?” The girls asked him.

“Yes.” He answered.

“Okay then. Can you feel the temperature?”

He doesn’t really understand what she means. But when he tries to feel the temperature, he can sense it. It feels like the sun giving of his warmth to his skin. It’s warm just like the summer time.

“Yes.” He answered.

Something amazes his mind. He can feel the temperature, and he is able to talks just like normal.

The girl then pinched him hard in his arm and asked:

“Do you feel the pain?”

“Ouch, yeah, it hurts.”

“Now, can you feel that you’re standing?”

“Hah? Whoa! Yes I’m standing” he answered with a little confusion. He’s feeling that he was laying down all the time but suddenly he feels that he is standing.

“Okay. For the final test, can you feel all of the muscle in your body? Can you feel your arm, legs, and try to move them?”

“Okay.” Hikaru answered and then he starts moving his arm and legs as if he was stretching before exercise.

“Okay then. It settles it. Now, open your eyes.”
Hikaru starts to open his eyes and smile. He can see the sun start setting down in the sea, the smell of the ocean, the feel of wind passing through his body, and the sound of a few seagulls in front of him. Amazing... This is probably the word that’s running through his mind right now.

He then remembered a girl that is talking to him earlier. He looks for her and found her besides him.

"Who are you?"

"Welcome player, my name is Irina and I’m your guide to the new world. I will help you setting up your character. You can say that I’m a costumization NPC (Non Player Character)."

Amazing... Hikaru talks to himself. A talking NPC in front of him. Short girl around 14 years old, long red hair and thin figure. But she is looking with her blue eyes as if she can see through him.

"So what nickname do you want to use?" the girls is asking emotionlessly.

"I will just choose my name, Hikaru."

"Would you like to customize your looks sir? Or would you like to go with your actual looks? We can read your self-awareness from your brain and load it up for you. But if you want to looks different, we can take you to the creation room.“ Irina explained.

"How does the creation process work?" Hikaru ask in curiosity.

Irina raises her hand and makes a weird gesture. A few seconds later, a plain human head shows up in front of him. No face, no eyes, no ears, no mouth, no nose, no hair, just plain.

"Here’s the appearance customizer. You can think of anything you like. How your character looks, what color are your eyes, what’s the shape of your lips, how long are your hair, and much many more. You can make your character as perfect as you want to be."

"Hmm... as perfect as I want to be... it’s still MMORPG any way..."

"Yes, many players choose an avatar that’s completely different from what they looks like from the real world. It can be said to be protecting their privacy. Because of that, many players that is using their real appearance in the real world is protected too. If they meet up in the real world, they can feign ignorance if that’s just some stranger using their face."

"Whoa... amazing... but, I’m happy with my appearance now. I just want... you know... to be a little bit taller. Hehehe... can I do that?"

Irina makes another gesture. After that, Hikaru is surprised to see a perfect copy of himself in front of him. Just like when he’s looking at the mirror.
“Whoa... is this me? I didn’t look that bad... Hehehe... so, can you adjust my height? Maybe ten or twenty centimeters taller.”

“Confirmed... Adjusting the avatar height.”

The Hikaru avatar in front of him is starting to be taller slowly, and stops after become taller for about twenty centimeter.

“Okay, that’s perfect. Can you change my hair too? I want it red and permed.”

“Changing color variable for hair. Changing hair style as instructed by player. Done... Is there anything else you want to customize sir?”

“Nope, that’s perfect.” Hikaru is grinning. He looks satisfied with the avatar that he will use.

“Okay then, your character avatar is registered. What do you want to be in this world?” She asked again.

“What do you mean?” Hikaru answered with a little confusion.

“What class are you going to choose?”

“Hmm... I want to be a knight. But what are the classes available?” Hikaru asked to Irina.

Irina then makes another weird gesture. A few seconds later, a lot of small windows appear in front of Hikaru. Each window contains information about a class and their respective skills. It explains about each class special traits and advantages.

“Rebirth online have 6 basic class to choose from, swordsman, fighter, archer, thief, caster, and commoner. These basic classes can turn into advanced class when they have reach level 50. As you can see, in front of you there are windows that tell each class details.” Irina explained.

Hikaru is examining each class carefully. As he look at each class windows, the appearance of his avatar in front of him is changing. When he pick swordsman, his avatar is equipped with leather armor and carrying a sword. When he pick caster, his avatar is wearing a robe and carrying a staff. Finally when he examines the knight class, his eyes is sparkling.

“It is exactly with what I have in mind. Knight class is really cool. I have decided to be a knight Irina.”

“Oh... So, you will go with swordsman as your basic class sir?”

“Yes, I’m going to take swordsman class please.” Hikaru quickly replied.

“Oh then, please wait a minute. Registering character name: Hikaru... Id number: 998670... Basic class: swordsman... Confirming the registration...” She then talks loudly while making a gesture as if she was typing at a keyboard.
“Thank you for waiting Hikaru. Your character is now registered. I will now change your appearance to your avatar. Please wait for a moment.”

After Irina said those words, a sudden light envelop Hikaru body and his avatar. He can feel that his body is stretched and he is becoming taller. After the light disappear, Hikaru is now in his avatar.

Just then Hikaru felt something heavy is pulling his arm down. A sword appears in his hand. He’s jumping in happiness and unsheathes the sword from its scabbard. He tries to swing it around and then feel some kind of self satisfaction. After that he put the sword back to it sheath.

“Okay then, let me tell you about the system interface.” Irina said with her emotionless tone.

“If you try to focus your mind, at the top left corner of your eyes you can see your Hit Points, Mana Point, and Experience Points. Hit points is basically your life points, if it reaches zero, you will die. If you die, you will be re-spawned at the town re-spawn point, but you will have experience and gold penalty. Mana points are basically your energy to use skills and spell. If it reaches zero you can’t activate a skill that uses mana. Experience points are needed to level up, but rather than the amounts of experience it will show how many percent you have. Can you see it?” Irina asked to Hikaru.

“Hmm...” Hikaru really try to concentrate and he can finally see it at the left top corner of his eyes, the HP, MP, and Exp bar. He then replied: “Yes.”

“Okay then, let me tells you about the command list. In rebirth online there are 8 main windows, status window, inventory window, skill window, friends’ window, party window, guild window, quest window, and reputation window. You can access these windows by shouting them. Give it a try and open your status window.”

“Okay then, here I go. Status window...” Hikaru calls out for the interface and a status window comes out in front of him, floating in the air.

In there he can see his HP, MP, Exp, attack, defense and there is something that he didn’t know the attributes parameter. He then decided to ask to Irina: “hey Irina, what is this attributes?”

“Attributes are how you determine how you want to make your character. It is divided into 6 areas, VIT (vitality) it’s determining your max Hp and defense. STR (strength) is determining your attack power and will increase your maximum carrying weight. AGI (agility) is determining how agile you are. CON (concentration) will determine how accurate can you hit the enemy and how fast you can cast your skill. INT (intelligence) is determining your magic attack, magic defense and maximum MP. LUK (luck) is determining your critical hit rate and your item drop will increase.” Irina keeps replying in unemotional tone.

“So, how can I upgrade this attributes?” Hikaru asks while showing a little bit of interest.

“You will get 5 attributes points each time you level up.” Irina replied.
“I get it now, but can it really be applied? Because I don’t think it’s really important.”

“It is indeed applied to this game. For example if you increase your AGI, the system will help you to move faster, but if you move too fast, it’s hard to hit the enemy, and CON will help you to concentrate better to hit the enemy. But if you focus on these two attributes too much, you will be fast and hit the enemy precisely but with no damage and low defense and health. So it’s really important how you divide your attributes.”

“I see. It makes sense now. But, do I really have to shout for the window every time i want to open it?”

“You don’t have to do it every time, just think in your mind and it will be opened. You can try it to open the inventory window.” Irina explains.

Hikaru then try to think and as if he was talking to himself, he calls out inventory window. A window then appeared in front of him.

“Do you succeed?” Irina asked.

“Yes, it’s right here, can’t you see it?”

“No, player windows can only be seen by the player themselves, it is designed to keep privacy. But more importantly inventory window will show you your currently equipped equipment, and your inventory list. At the top right of the window you can see the weight limit for example 800/3000. 800 is your current weight and 3000 is your maximum carrying weight. It doesn’t matter how much item you’re carrying as long you didn’t pass the limit.”

“But how do I put item in my inventory? Just put it in my bag or something like that?”

“Yes indeed you are correct. If you can see to the left of your waist, there is a small bag know as adventurer’s bag. You can put anything in there. Your wallet also located in there. To take an item out of the bag, you just need to put your hand inside and think of the item. Just like how you open the inventory window. Try to take your wallet out.”

Hikaru then tries to put his hand inside the bag. The bag is empty, but then he try to muttered to himself, wallet. And he suddenly feels that there is something in his hand. He takes it out and a small purse is what in his hand. He opens it and looks like there are only a few gold coins in there.

Huh... I guess a beginner like me won’t be given a lot of gold at the first time. He looks a bit disappointed and put the wallet back inside the bag. He then asked Irina: “Okay, what’s next?”

“I will explain to you about friends’ window. Friend window will show you your list of friends online and their level. To be friends with them you have to shake hands with them and said, “Let’s be friend”. His name will automatically show up. There are actions available for your friends, which is message and telepathy. You can write a message to your friend or you can call them and have a private chat with them. This two can be done easily just like how
you open the inventory windows. After all what you think in this world, we can read the brain wave and execute it as a command.”

"Okay I get it. What’s next?"

"Next is party window. Party window will tells you about your teammate’s condition, although their HP and MP bar will show up at your top left corner below your name, the party window will tell more information. It will show their location and level too. To make a party just ask to them, “will you join my party?” and if the person answer “yes” his or her name will automatically show up at the party window. And the maximum number of people in a party is 20."

"What about the exp and items divided?"

"I will explain it later when you will have your first battle."

"Next is guild window. You can make a guild if you registered it at a guild hall in town. A basic guild limit is for 100 people. If you want to add more members, you can apply for guild rank upgrade in the main guild headquarters. The advantage of a guild is you can rent a building that can be used as a base. Each base will have their own warehouse to keep their inventory and can be used as a re-spawn point. But to make a guild and rent a building takes a lot of gold."

"Hmm... This game seems a little bit more complicated than what I thought. So, when will I get to fight the monster?"

"Oh.. Are you ready for your first battle Hikaru?"

"Yes.” He answers.

"Let me explain about the quest system first. In rebirth online, if you take a quest, the quest window will automatically update each time you completed the mission. In the quest window, you can check your quest progress and the list of quest that you have completed. You will get rewards for completing a quest. There are also recommended quest for your level that you can take. To take a quest, you have to talk to the NPC. If you’re in a party, all of your party members have to be present in front of the NPC.”

"Okay, I understand the quest system. It’s similar to any other MMORPG.”

"Yes it is. To have your first quest, you can take it from me. Just say that you’re ready to take the tutorial quest.”

"Irina, I’m ready to take the tutorial quest.”

"Okay, commencing tutorial battle, spawning 5 level 2 slime.”

Just when she finished his sentences, 5 weird looking creatures appear out of nowhere. They looked like a ball and bouncing forward little by little. The quest window also pop out and updated. “New quest: kill 5 level 2 slime. Rewards: 500 golds.”
“In battle, you just have to kill 5 monsters whose one level higher than you to level up, or 25 monsters at your level. If you battle with monster 1 level below yours, you have to kill 125 of them.”

“I see. So it’s pretty simple with the level calculation.”

“Let me explain it in percentage. If you kill a monster that is 2 levels higher than you, you will get 100% Exp points. Monster that is 3 levels higher than you will give 500% exp, but you won’t level up 2 levels at once. 100% experience will be used to level up once, and the remaining 400% will be recounted. If you kill a level 4 monster, you will end up as a level 2 with 80% Exp. If you are on a party, the Exp will be evenly shared. It is easier to hunt in a party, but you have to kill more monsters.”

“So I just have to kill one monster that is two levels higher than me to level up right? Hahaha... I get it now. It’s pretty simple.” Hikaru said with full of confidence.

“But the battle is not that easy.” Irina replied.

“If you don’t believe me, try defeating the slime in front of you. “

Hikaru then takes out his sword and try to slash at the monster in front of him. But it’s not as how he expected. He managed to graze the nearest slime but it doesn’t seem to be taking much damage.

“What’s the meaning of this Irina?”

“As you can see, above the monster is their HP bar, they have been damaged by your attacks but your attack are not that effective. You have to hit them properly if you want to inflict more damage. Just like how you battle in the real world.”

“Tch... so this is what you mean by it’s not so easy.”

“By the way, try opening your skill windows. In the skill windows you will see all of the skill available to your class. Every time you leveled up, you will be given one skill point. It can be used to take the skill that you want. So, the combination of skills and attributes each player choose is unique. Although you may want to consider the skill that you take. For example a level 1 player like you can take the Gravity Slash skill. But, your mana point won’t be enough to activate them. As for your level, I recommend for you to take Power Slash. Choose the skill that you want to take and distribute your skill point. After that, try to use the skill by shouting the name or call it out in your mind.”

After hearing Irina explanation, Hikaru then decides to level up the Power Slash skill. He then tries to use the skill to attack the slime. “Uryaa... Power Slash.”

Power Slash is a basic move from swordsman class. It has an effect of doubling the damage of a normal attack.
With the skill executed Hikaru finally managed to hit the slime and depleted its HP to zero. Then slime then scatters like a firefly. His exp bar then increased to 20%.

“Well done, but there is 4 more slime to go Hikaru”. Stated Irina, she has been watching the whole battle from the sidelines.

After a few minutes of battle with the lowest rank monster in the game, Hikaru finally leveled up. It takes some time before his body can adapted to this world battle system.

“Congratulations Hikaru. You have leveled up and get 5 attributes points. You also got a skill point. Each time you leveled up, you will get attributes points and a skill point. There are some skills that can be upgraded to level 10. So you will get stronger as you leveled up and distribute your attributes and skill point. Let me also tells you about the item drop and gold drop system. Every time you killed a monster they will give you gold and sometimes an item drop. Gold drop will be automatically added to your inventory, but item drop will falls on the ground when you killed the monster. Item dropped by a monster can only be taken by the player that killed the monster or another player from the same party. Items dropped have duration of 30 seconds in the ground before it disappears. If it is killed by another player, the item drop belongs to the player that deals the most damage.” Explain Irina.

“I see... But the battle is harder than what I thought. Is it possible that people who practice martial arts in the real world can fight better in here?”

“Yes it will help, but until a certain degree. Because in the real world there are no skills like in this world and there are no monsters to practice with.”

“Well... I guess it’s really hard to level up in here.”

“That’s why the level required to advance is 50. We need to make sure that you really understand your class skill before advancing.”

“I see... So that’s the reason... By the way, is there anybody who already achieved advanced class?”

“Let me see... 58.000 are in level 1-10... 253.000 are in level 11-20... 346.765 are in level 21-30... 310.050 are in level 31-40... 32.024 are in level 41-50... 160 are in level 51-60... 20 in level 61-70... 1 in level 81-90... Finally, 0 are in level 91-100... Almost every class already has a player who advances.”

“Whoa... You really know a lot... 160 in level 50-60, 20 in level 60-70, and 1 in level 80-90 means that it is possible to reach that level. Yes I get it now. But is it possible if a high level player tank for a newbie and let them kill it? Let’s say they are leeching their friends.”

“To eliminate the possibilities of someone last hitting your monster, killing it, and get all the experience, this game system works on percentage. So if a party battle with a monster until it has 1% HP remaining and someone outside the party hits it with a blow that powerful enough to kill it, the killer only gains 1% of exp.”
“If that’s how it works, then is it possible for high level character to leech their friends by partying with him?”

“To make sure that every player is playing without cheating or leeching, when a party is formed, the level difference of the lowest member of the party from the highest member of the party is limited to 5. For example, if a level 10 player tries to make a party with level 1 player, the level 10 player automatically becomes a level 6 player as long as that player remain in the party. As for their attributes and skills, we have the record of each player. It just like their character is going back in time. For the experience, it will be evenly shared, but the high level player experience needed to level up is still the same.”

“I see now, so if a high level player decided to help their friends, they will have their attributes and skill reduced. The experience isn’t that much too.”

“The biggest disadvantages when partying up with a lower level player is the risk of PK’ed (player kill-ed) by high level player. In Rebirth Online, we have a different type of PvP (player versus player). We have the arena, where a weekly match is held and there are rewards for the winner. We have duel, a private match between each player and it will be recorded in the reputation window. But, we have what we called a FFA (free for all) field. It is a map where the monster will give EXP and gold rewards bigger than usual, but you can be attacked by other player and get killed. Many players are hunting for another player in this ground because there are rewards for the highest kills and deaths record every week.”

“That’s sound hard. So, it is better to hunt in FFA field but we have to keep an eye on other player. Thank you Irina... I think I get it now.”

“You’re welcome Hikaru. I guess you have already covered the basic and now I can warp you to Edelweiss the town of beginner.”

“Yes, I’m ready. But one last question. Are you really an NPC?”

“Yes, indeed. The NPC in this game have a higher intelligence than normal AI (artificial intelligence) out there who can only tells what it’s been programmed. We, the NPC of this world can search through the network from our database about what you want to know and give a proper answer. I could say that our system is highly advanced. All of the NPC in this game can answer almost your entire question about the game.”

“That’s amazing... Okay then... I am ready for my adventure.”

“Oh, one last thing I almost forgot. In your bottom right corner you can see your status bar. It consists of clock, hunger bar and energy bar. You can sleep here in this world and set an alarm. Your sleeps here just like your sleep in the real world. We will relax your brain and put it in a resting condition. However for the hunger status, you can eat and drinks food in this world. Although they taste great, it won’t settles down your hunger. We set it up that way, so people won’t play the games obsessively and then died because they didn’t eat in the real world. After all we can monitor your body condition.”
“That’s impressive... Okay then. Thank you once again Irina.”

“You’re welcome Hikaru.” Just then she bows down a little and then Hikaru body starts to shine. The light is so bright until he decided to close his eyes.

When he opened his eyes, he’s in some kind of medieval town. The building is classic, and a fountain in the middle of plaza completes the atmosphere.

“So, this is the world of rebirth online. This city of beginner Edelweiss is so beautiful. But it’s getting late and I don’t want to spend my little money on renting an inn. I guess I’ll log out for now.” That’s what Hikaru is thinking in his head. But then suddenly he shocked at the fact that he didn’t know how to log out. He doesn’t want to embarrass himself in front of another player, so he decided to look out for a NPC.

If you look carefully above each person there is an information bar. But it can only show their guild emblem and their names. Their level won’t show up unless you’re friends with them. To find a NPC it’s pretty simple, they usually have their names based on their job. For example a shopkeeper NPC who sells potion will have Potion NPC name above their head.

He then looked around and finds a standing guard with City Guard NPC name flying above his head. He decided to ask the guards who is standing near the city entrance:

“I’m sorry sir; do you know how to log out?”

“Hahaha... You must be a new adventurer. Okay then I’ll tell you. You can only log out inside the city border. That means you can’t log out when you are out in the field. To log out you just simply have to commands it. Just like how you use skill and open your system windows.”

“I see... Thank you sir...”

With that in mind he decided to end his adventure today. He then calls out the command in his mind... Log out... another light enveloped his body and then he closes his eyes. When he opens it again the only thing he can see is the ceiling of his room.

*****

“Hikaru...” Kongou saying his names out loud, making them the center of attention of the class.

“What is it Kongou?”

“You’ve played RO yesterday right? What do you think? Isn’t it amazing?” Kongou is looking at Hikaru with his eyes sparkling.

“Yes it is. But I log out after I completed the tutorial because I can’t find you.”
“Oh you’re right... Let’s make an appointment today at 7 o’clock at the fountain plaza. You know where it is right?”

“Yeah I know. Okay it settles it then. I can’t wait for our summer breaks to come. We can play every day all day long.”

“Hahaha... Same with me... By the way are you taking the swordsman class?”

“Yes... What about you?”

“I’m taking an offensive caster class. But I have a little bit problems in measuring the distance. So my spell might hit you instead.”

“Ugh... But can it hurt me?”

“Oh well... It seems that you didn’t read the manual book don’t you?”

“Ugh.” Kongou guess hit the mark making Hikaru feels guilty.

“If we’re partying our friendly fire status is enabled. I can probably kill you if my spell hit you instead of the monster. Hahaha...” Kongou said it with a big smile on his face.

“Ugh... It is a bad news for me then... But I know what you mean. Even battling against some slime using swords is hard for me.”

“Yeah I know... And the level up system seems easy but hard to be done. I wonder when we can get to our advanced class.”

“Hmm... I wonder... Anyway, let’s just meet up tonight and level up as much as we can.”

“Sure.” Hikaru answer while nodding.

With a motivation to get home and play, the classes at school become boring and moving slower than usual. Finally when Hikaru get’s home he changes his clothes, grab some sandwich from the table, drink a carton of milk and then return back to his room quickly. He put the Syder in his head, lying down at the bed and presses the power buttons. He closes his eyes and a text pop out.

Welcome to Rebirth online. We recognized your brain wave id. Welcome back Hikaru. Checking the five senses... Commencing login...

“I guess I login too early” Hikaru muttered to himself.

The clock on the bottom right showing that’s its only 6 o’clock still 1 hour before the promised appointment with Kongou. He then walking nearing the fountain plaza and he starts to realize that there’re many foreigner in this game. Of course, the Syder isn’t available only at Japan but its worldwide. The character customization also allows a player to looks like a foreigner. He’s more amazed at how popular is the game. His only problem now is in his English proficiency.
When he arrives at the fountain plaza, a crowd of people can be spotted. He joins them want to know what they are seeing and there is a view that he cannot believe could happened.

A girl is dancing in the water at the middle of the fountain. The suns start to set down makes the sky colors in red, as if it was meant to be her background. She’s wearing shrine maiden clothes and dancing so beautifully. Her red eyes makes nobody can turn their head away when she stares at them. Her small face and red lips seemed like a hint if she was a princess from a Japanese temple. And her black long hair is whirling around her gracefully as if it dances with her. Her figures just like a model and we can guess from her face that she’s around 17 years old. Judging from the way she dances, she must be a high level dancer class, but her armor isn’t befitting.

Just who in this world is she? That’s what crosses Hikaru minds while watching she dances. Fifteen minutes she dances there and finally she feels a little bit tired. She then decided to stop, going down from the fountain and sit at a bench which is circling the fountain.

Many people then suddenly surround her and asked. What is your name, what class are you, would you mind teaming up with me, would you be my girlfriend, and other things that seem to be making her confused. She then left out a cute voice saying:

“Can you all leave me alone? I’m waiting for my master.”

“Heh... I guess she rejects all of them. But the way she pronounced master, as if she was that person servants or something.” That’s what crosses Hikaru mind.

Hearing that statement many people disappointed and decided to leave, but some decided to wait in the bush and wait for her master to come up and then bully her master. Seeing almost all of the people has leave Hikaru decided to approach her and ask a question.

“Excuse me, could you tell me what kind of dance that you do just now?”

“Eh... I’m sorry but my master tells me not to talk to stranger.”

“Err... If it’s like that then let me introduce myself. My name is Hikaru; I’m just level 2 right now and just login here for the second time. I still don’t know a lot of things that’s why I decided to get some advice from you.” He said while bowing down a little bit.

“My name is Sakuya. And that dance just now is a skill name the dance of time.”

“But I thought your class wasn’t a dancer.”

“Yes my class isn’t a dancer. My clas...”

“Eeh..? How could you use a skill from a different class?” Hikaru interrupted before she finishes her sentences.

“I guess you didn’t read the manual book. Okay, I will tell you.”

She then explains to Hikaru about the circumstances.
"You're well aware that there are 6 basic classes right? But the class of commoner is a special case. You can learn the skill of all advanced class of commoner?"

"Really? So it's possible to acquire all skill from advanced class of commoner then?"

"Yes it is possible, but it's nearly impossible. To acquire one skill from the class you have to go to the class headquarters. Filling in an application form and then do the quest for the skill. The quest itself is hard to accomplish and by doing all of that you will only acquire one skill. So doing that will require a lot of time and effort. Furthermore, you have to spend one skill point to use the skill. That is why not many people really care about acquiring skill from commoner advanced class. Because one skill taken from advanced commoner class mean one less skill from your original advanced class."

"I see, not many people also have achieved their basic advanced class in the first place."

"Yes indeed."

The way Sakuya talk isn't different from any other player, but her knowledge is something to be aware about. And by the fact she said the player have to meet the level requirements means that she is already on her advanced class.

“So you’re one of a few players that have reached advanced class then?” Hikaru asked Sakuya

“No, I’m not. It is true if there are 12,165 players that have reached advanced class but I’m not one of them. My status as a guardian isn’t recognized as one of the player.”

“Ooh... So that’s it... eeeehhh...?” Hikaru is looking at her and then confused.

“So you’re saying that you’re not a player? Are you a NPC? What is the guardian status that you’re talking about?” Hikaru asked in disbelief.

“You really didn’t read the manual book didn’t you?"

“Ugh.” Sakuya words pierce Hikaru.

“In this world we have NPC that can be hired by player to help them level up. Because other player that is in your level range isn’t available all the time. You can hire us at the guardian headquarters, but the guardian available there isn’t really on a high level. Also you cannot hire a guardian that has a higher level than you. Not many players in this game use this service for a long time though. Because once we’re dead, our level resets to 1 again. So many players decided to level up by forming a party with other player than hiring a guardian.”

“Well it seems like it’s just a temporary service. While you can get level up along with the player, once you’re dead your level difference will make player reluctant to form a party again and their probably will just abandon you.”

“Yes. That’s true, so that’s why there aren’t any guardian that last longer than a week with a player.”
While thinking in his head about the fact about the guardian. He is lost in his thought and thinking that it is really hard to live in this world as an NPC. Just then he realized how long Sakuya has been a guardian without even dying once.

“So then, how long have you been with your master then?”

“It’s been three months. And in this short time my master always protects me so I never died even once.”

Whoa. Her master is truly a really good player. He then feels that he really wants to meet with this person.

“So, where is your master now?”

“My master is currently filling out some form at the guild headquarters. He asks me to wait here until he finishes all his business.”

“Your master seems like a good man.”

“Of course he is. He always protected me all this time.”

When Sakuya said that, Hikaru can see that she is blushing. Her white and pretty face turns a little bit red. Make him forget that she is just a NPC. Just when he was thinking deep, a familiar voice called out to him.

“Hikaru... Who’s that pretty girl besides you? So this is what you’re doing behind me. You’re cheating on me!”

Just when he looks up, he saw his friend in front of him. He didn’t recognize at first because his hair is long and colored blue. He can see that he is caster class, wearing a purple robe and holding a staff. He forgot that they make an arrangement to meet at the fountain plaza.

“Ugh Kongou... Stop talking like that... Other people may start to think that I was a gay or something.”

“Huh... What are you talking about? Aren’t you a gay?” Kongou replied in a teasing manner.

“Youu...” Hikaru is starting to get annoyed.

“Hihihi...”Just then Sakuya giggling with her hand trying to cover her mouth, she’s preventing the sound to be heard by Hikaru.

“See, even this girl thinks that you are a gay Hikaru. Hahaha...” Kongou laugh really hard after saying that.

After hearing that Hikaru who’s about to explode letting go of his anger and then laugh with them. Just a few seconds later Sakuya look like if she was talking to herself. She must be on a private chat, that’s what Hikaru thought. After that she stands up from the bench and talks:
“I’m sorry Hikaru, and you a friend of Hikaru, my master are calling for me. So I believe I must take my leave now. See you again.” Sakuya giving him her goodbye while bowing down a little and then walked away while smiling from the plaza.

“She’s sure is beautiful Hikaru. Where do you find her? Come on, tell me!” Kongou asked seriously.

“I just met her today at the plaza; she was dancing in the middle of the fountain.”

“Whoa? She is an advanced class dancer? Uooh... Besides she’s pretty she’s also a high level player.”

“Wait a minute. She’s not a dancer. And although she has a high level she’s not a player, she’s a guardian.” Explain Hikaru.

“Whaaaaat? A guardian? Impossible...” Kongou just stand there with his mouth open wide and showing his disbelieves.

Hikaru didn’t believe to the AI level in this game. He didn’t expect them to be able to act like Sakuya. Even if the city guards that he asked yesterday on how to log out laugh, but there is no live in his tone. It’s so different from how Sakuya reacts and behave. And the way she dances at the fountain, there’s no way that she’s programmed that way.

“So, want to check out the guardian building?”

“Hell yeah... I want to hire someone like her.” Kongou replied with full of energy.

The two of them decided to walks to the guardian headquarter. Although the city isn’t that big but it have almost all of the important building. Because it’s the town of beginner, they probably designed it for new player to understand the game early on.

When they arrive at the guardian building, they’re surprised to see that to hire a guardian you have to pay 10,000 gold for the application form. He takes out his wallet and count that he only has 800gold. He is given 300 starting gold and gets 500 golds for defeating the slimes. It is so expensive, so that’s probably why there aren’t many people out there who’s using guardian. And when he’s checking to the list of guardian, it’s only ranging from level 1 to level 14.

“I guess they hired a guardian just to know what its look like.” Kongou shove Hikaru side to make him hurt a little.

“Let’s just make a party and level up by our self. By the way, let’s add each other on the friend list first so it will be easier if we want to meet up later.”

“Okay.” Kongou replied.

But when Kongou reach out his hand, Hikaru just stand in his place. If Sakuya master telepathy with Sakuya just now, then is it possible to make friends with NPC? He’s frozen.
still and shocked at the possibilities. It seems like the system AI is more advanced than any other games out there, much more advanced even from the AI at technology convention.

He remembers going there once with Kongou. He was there to see the *Syder* get publicized. There is a stand of an advanced AI but it can only answer a few general questions. If you asked a complicated question it will says, “I’m sorry, I don’t know.”

“What are you spacing out for?” Kongou ask furiously.

“Oh... I’m sorry, let’s be friends. Hehehe.” Hikaru apologize to Kongou.

With that done they’re forming a party and trying to hunt for some low level monster. Kongou said that they will be going to beginner’s forest. Kongou seem much more knowledgeable. Kongou then asked Hikaru to buy some health potion from the NPC while he is buying some mana potion. Just to make sure that they are fully prepared.

“Hey Hikaru, we’re going to hunt all night so you better prepare yourself.”

“What? All night?”

“Of course, there’s no school tomorrow. Our summer breaks already starts. Do you forget about it? So we can play to our heart fullest.”

At the beginner’s forest the common enemy is a level 3 jumping rabbit. This enemy is perfect for Hikaru and Kongou who’s currently at level 2. They just need to kill 10 jumping rabbit to level up. That’s been said but their battle is not that easy. For a couple time, Kongou energy bolt hitting Hikaru instead of the enemy. Hikaru attacks keep missing the jumping rabbit and his sword finally stuck at a tree. After thirty minutes of struggle and effort they finally leveled up.

“Hey Hikaru, have you decided on what attributes to focus on?”

“I don’t know yet, maybe I will increase the entire attribute except for luck. Because we get 5 attributes point and we have to choose out of 6 to distribute it”

“I guess you have your point, but I will focus on INT and DEX so my magic will have a quicker cast rate and higher damage.”

“That’s a good thing, as long as it doesn’t hit me every time and depletes my hp.”

“Hahaha... I’m so sorry about that Hikaru.”

After that they laughed together and decided to go for another round of jumping rabbit. They managed to level up to level 5 and gathered 400 gold.

When they finished their battle that day, Kongou asked Hikaru if he wants to get something to eat. Hikaru nods at the offer and then they arrived at a tavern in the town. It’s named the sinking dolphin. What a weird name for a tavern but soon they realized the meaning behind the name.
The building looks small from outside, but inside it, there is a big hole going underground. There are tables around the hole and there are stairs going down. As they walking down the stairs, they can see dolphin’s pictures decorated the wall. The waiter is wearing blue uniform with a dolphin picture on it. So that’s why they named it the sinking dolphin.

They finally sit down and ordered a set of jumping rabbit steak and grape juice pricing at 30gold total. The steak is delicious. It is tastier than any other meat that they ever have. And the grape juice is so fresh and sweet. It is such a good way to end the meal.

“Aah... It’s so good Hikaru. I think I could never get bored eating this kind of food.”

“Yeah, but it’s only for a temporary measures. Because your real body will still feel hungry.”

“Yeah. So what’s next? Want to try sleeping at the inn?”

“Seems like a good idea.”

“Uuuuh... I’m getting excited. Two young man sharing their passionate love at the inn” Kongou talks out loud in purpose so all of the people looking at them.

“Ugh... That’s not what I mean... Of course we will have a separate room.” Hikaru answered with a little anger in his tone.

There are a various types of inn to rent. The price for one room in Edelweiss is ranging from 150 gold until 1000 gold for one night. Of course they can’t afford a luxurious place to spend the night, so they decided to go with the cheapest room.

Inside the room there is only one bed, one table, and one window. The room only illuminated by the light of a small lamp in the middle of the table. It’s so simple but it’s just enough for a person to spend the night. Hikaru tries to lie down on the bed and he found out that the bed is not that bad. He tries to closes his eyes and before he realized it, he’s already sleeping.

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Knock knock knock... In the morning, someone is knocking at the door.

“Huh... I want to sleep some more.” Hikaru mumble as he starts to wake up from his bed and opened the door.

“Hikaru... This is bad. I have the urge to go to the toilet. I have done it here, but I still feel that I need to go to the toilet.”

“Hahaha... I understand, but why do you have to come knocking at my door this early. You can just send a message to me. Let’s just log out and meet again at the fountain after we have breakfast. Even though we can eat and go to the toilet in here, our real body still needs maintenance.”
“Ooh, I forgot that I can send you a message. Hahaha. Ok then, see you in the afternoon.”
After that, Kongou decided to log out from the game. Hikaru can see that his friend is enveloped with light and then disappear.

Hikaru then decided to go to the fountain plaza first and then log out from there. Because if he log out at the inn, when he log in he will start from there. He’s taking a little time to enjoy the morning view.

It’s amazing. I can’t believe that I was in a game world. Everything here seemed so real.”
Hikaru is talking to himself.

After a few minutes of walking Hikaru finally arrives at the fountain plaza. This place is empty, but Hikaru remembered what happened yesterday. He met Sakuya at the fountain. The fact that she is a NPC makes it more unbelievable. After a few minute reminiscing about the event yesterday, Hikaru then decided to log out. Another light envelope his body and then his body disappeared from the plaza.

When he opens his eyes, Hikaru is lying down at the bed. He decided to wake up while stretching his neck. He didn’t feel dizzy from using the Syder for the whole night. In fact, he feels that his rest last night is really relaxing and refreshing. Better than his regular sleep every night.

He then goes out from his room and decided to grab some breakfast. When he is having his morning meal, his mother already finished her breakfast and start washing the dishes. Hikaru then tell her that for the whole day he decided to play in his room. His mother says okay but make sure that he stops and have his lunch in the afternoon.

After he finished his breakfast, he washes the dish and then takes a quick shower. After that he then back to his room and decided to read a little bit from the manual book. The manual book seemed to be thick and full of unimportant information, but he forces himself to make a quick look.

Starting up guide, basic and advanced class, user interface, experience and battle system, event and quest, list of town and field, the guardian, the arena, the prison. Hikaru paused for a while when he read the prison. He never heard of such a place in the game although he is just a beginner. He decided to look through the page.

The prison. The prison is located at special field where only GM can warp in and out. Player who’s doing sexual harassment, bullying, forced duel, or even trying to PK another player outside the FFA field will be processed by the GM(game master) in charge and then if they’re proven to be guilty they will be taken to the prison. The player who’s been taken to the prison can’t open their command window and can’t even use their skill. They also can’t interact with other player, so telepathy is out of question. The prison time ranging from 24 hour to 720 hour of login time depend on the crime. So if a player is in a 24hours crime time, he can’t log out and log in back the next day and be freed from the punishment. He has to login for 24 hours in the prison, for him to be released.
With the *Syder* implemented, we’re always monitoring the brain wave condition of each player. If a player stress level reaches a certain degree, such as fear, anger, and anxiety, our GM will automatically warps to the scene and examining the situation. If our GM didn’t show up at the scene and you feel threatened, you can execute the commands of GM call. Our GM will immediately come into your location. The law created inside Rebirth Online is very strict. That is for one sole purpose, so the player can enjoy the game without any other disturbance. The only crime allowed in the game is pickpocket through the thief skills. We hope that all of the players have the best time of their life in the game world. Welcome to the world of Rebirth Online.

Whoa... Hikaru is amazed at the law that was applied in RO. So this is why the game is named as the player heaven. This game is truly created so the player can hunt the monster and leveled up. For players who want to test out their skills, they can go to the arena. For players who’s confused about what to do, the NPC can answer their question. This is how a VRMMORPG should be. A true paradise for players.

When he finished reading the manual, the time is almost twelve o’ clock. He then decided to finish his lunch now so he can play without disturbance later. He goes out from his room, having lunch, and then logging in.

When Hikaru opens his eyes, he can see the sun above him and feel that this day is very hot. He decided to wait for Kongou under the trees around the plaza. Not long after he stand there resting from the sun, a message from Kongou came in.

“Where are you? I’m already at the plaza.” That’s what written in the message.

Hikaru then looked around him and he can see his friend in the purple robe. He approaches him and then he asks where they will go leveling today. But Kongou said they’re not going to hunt some monster but doing some quest instead.

Quest in rebirth online just like in any other games is given out by NPC. You can take quest from the quest window. There are several types of quest, hunting, gathering, cooking, crafting, are some of the wide range of quest. There are level requirements, exp point given for completing the quest, and gold rewards.

After looking at the entire quest they decided to take the delivering mochi quest with level 5 requirements. The experience rewards is 100% and the gold rewards is 500 gold. Seems like a good deal. This quest is requested by the Sweets Shop NPC. For further details they need to meet with the NPC. They are walking to the sweet shop and enter it. Inside the shop, an old man in a chef uniform is standing at the back of the counter table.

He must be the sweet shop NPC, shouts Kongou

“Good afternoon sir, are you the Sweets Shop NPC? We’re here regarding the quest of delivering mochi.” Hikaru asked politely.
“Yes you are correct young man. I’m the owner of this shop and I’m the one who put up the request for delivering mochi. As you can see, I’m already becoming too old and I can’t walk too far from the city. But a young man at Elka village has request a mochi for delivery. Will you deliver this mochi to the boy?”

“Of course sir, but aren’t we supposed to have a notification or a window somewhere to check our quest progress?”

“Hahaha... You must be new in taking quest. To put it simply, in front of the quest NPC; all of the party members have to open the quest windows and accept the mission.”

“I see. Thank you sir.”

They open their quest windows and find the delivering mochi quest. They open the window and there is a confirmation question. “Are you ready to take the delivering mochi quest?” Then both of them click on the yes button.

It says, congratulation, you have been accepting the delivering mochi quest. Your task is to go to Elka village and deliver the mochi to the boy. You can close this window and open it again by calling out quest progress. You may only take one quest at a time.

After reading the information, Kongou then takes the mochi package from the table and put it in his bag. Both of them then go out from the store and decided to go to Elka village.

When they go out from the store, they realized that they have a big problem. Although they have taken the quest, they don’t know where the village is and how to get there. They’re too embarrassed to go back to the shop and ask the old man. But Hikaru then remembered something useful. Every NPC in this game is knowledgeable and can answer your every question. After that, they decided to ask the city guard where the Elka village is.

From the NPC information, the Elka village is half hour walking away from Edelweiss city. The route is safe from monster and they won’t get lost from the road, because they only needed to go in a straight line.

The road is pretty big and surrounded by beautiful trees and flower. Just like walking at a national conservation park. Although it’s missing some endangered species. The two friends walking in silent until Kongou finally let out some voice.

“Hey Hikaru... Don’t you think this world is a little bit strange?”

“What do you mean by that?” Hikaru looks a little bit confused.

“Just exactly like what I mean. The world is amazing, the trees here are wonderful, although the battle system is hard to master, but the atmosphere is just too good to be true.”

“Hmm... I get it... I have been thinking too for some time. The NPC here have a high level of intelligence. They can answer your entire question.”
“Yeah... I realized that too when we’re talking to the guards. It’s giving me goosebumps. It’s a good thing that he can laugh and talks but the tone in their voice is emotionless.”

“Hmm... The more I think about it the more I don’t get it. So how can it be that Sakuya is a NPC? She must be lying to me.”

“I think she lies to you so you won’t disturb her anymore. Hahaha...”

While the two of them laugh, he is keeping in mind the possibility that Sakuya is a player. If she is a NPC, he can’t find a reasonable reason on the way she laugh and smile.

After one hour of sightseeing they finally arrived at Elka village. They look for the boy who requested the mochi by asking to the village NPC. After they deliver the mochi to the boy the quest window opened and has been updated. To finish this quest, report back to the shop owner.

They then decided to walk back to the city. While they are on the way back, they can see some beginner too walk past them heading to Elka village. Hikaru then asked to Kongou.

“Hey Kongou... If we take a quest from the quest window, is it gone from the system or repeatable by another player?”

“It is repeatable by another player. Although for some event quest, they can be taken by every player but only the fastest player can receive the reward. The reward is a unique item. It means that only one item exist in this game. If a player finished it first the quest progress will be updated and said that it has been finished by the player.”

“So it is one of many ways for a player to show to the other player that they are more capable than them. It would be great if we can finish a quest like that and everybody will know our name.”

“Hahaha... Dream on.”

When they arrived at the sweets shop, they report to the shop owner that they have delivered the mochi to the boy. The quest window then gets updated, congratulations in finishing your quest. And then it disappears. Both of them gained a level and 500 gold rewards. They walked out from the store and then rest for a bit at the plaza.

“Hey Kongou... Doing quest is easier than hunting for monster right?”

“Yeah, you are right, but some quest required you to hunt for monster too. For example, a quest to collect rabbit’s leg from jumping rabbits.”

“Hmm... I see... Don’t you think it’s better for us to gather some more teammates? I mean, we need at least one supportive caster in this party.”

“Yeah... Oh, I know, we can search for a teammates form the party windows. It has a recruit board which has the list of people who’s looking for a party.”
“Okay, let’s find other teammates.”

Both of them then opened their party windows. They look at the recruit board and deciding some filter for the entire list. The level range is at level 6, and the class is a supportive caster. After seeing the two candidates from the search results, they decided to go to the nearest player. Her name is Leona and it shows that her current location is at the north gate of the city.

Hikaru and Kongou then decided to walk to the north gate of the city. When they arrive, they can see a cute little girl in a red robe standing besides the city guard. Her body is only as tall as the guards shoulder. Maybe she is a middle schooler, that’s what they thought.

They approach her and both of them surprised to see that she is a foreigner. Her blue eyes and blonde ponytail hair; makes both of them afraid to strike up a conversation. Because both of them can’t speak English very well.

“Good afternoon, are you Leona? Are you the one that put the request at the alliance headquarters?” Hikaru asked while trembling. He fears that he may spell the wrong words.

“Yes I am. And you don’t have to speak English with me; the Syder can read the brain waves and translate them for us. It reads your brain waves about what you want to say and sent it to me in a way that I can understand. So in a matter of fact, I’m saying all this words in English. But all of you heard it in Japanese right?”

Whoa... Both of them surprised at how she talks and the fact that the Syder can translate their language.

“Okay then, so you’re a supportive caster right and looking for a party. My name is Hikaru a swordsman, and my friend here is Kongou, an offensive caster. Would you like to join our party?”

“Yes I will join your party. “

“Okay then, Leona-chan. where do you want to hunt?” Kongou asked.

“Can you please show some respect to me? Although I’m looked like this, I’m probably older than you. I’m on my second college year.” She explains with a little bit of anger in her tone.

“Whoa... I’m so sorry for my behavior. Leona –san.” Kongou apologized while bowing down to her.

“Never mind... Just don’t call me –san or –chan. I didn’t like that. After all we’re in a game. Just call my name. Leona. Okay?”

“Yes Mam...” Both of them answered together.

“Looking at our level, we probably should go to sewer dungeon. Have any one of you go there before?”
“Not yet. This is our third day playing this game so we didn’t know much about the leveling spot.” Hikaru explained to her.

“Guess it can’t be helped then. Both of you follow me.” Both of them can only nod when they hear her voice, and follow after her. Although she is shorter than them, but her age is much older and she seemed to know more about the game.

They’re walking past the north gate of Edelweiss city and they’re walking heading to the east direction. After a few minutes the forest around them seemed much thicker until they finally arrives at an old looking building. It doesn’t have any sign to tell other what that building is. But Leona seems to be experienced. She opens the front door and they found a stair going deep down into underground. She then walks down the stairs into the sewer dungeon.

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Finally after five minutes walking down the stair, they arrived at a big hall. It seems to be the entrance to go into the sewer. Irina then giving commands to Hikaru:

“Hey swordsman, go in front of us and make a formation. Just walks to the left a couple meters and you will see the entrance.”

Hikaru then walks in front of Kongou and Leona. He takes a couple steps forward to the left direction, and then he stops for a moments. In front of him he can see a large pipe with a diameter of 5 meter. He look hesitated to enter the pipes.

“Hey Leona, is it really the right way? It seems dirty and dangerous.”

“Of course it is dirty, it’s sewer after all. The limited movement inside the pipes is good news for your friend here. His skills should be easier to hit than in the open grounds.” She said while pointing at Kongou.

Yes, she has a point. That’s what Hikaru thinks. She seemed to have more experience in battle too. Just when they’re start to walking further, Leona giving them a warning:

“Be careful when you’re dealing with the monster in here. Our enemy is a level 6 angered rat. Their defense and attack is low but they come in a large number. If you can keep casting fireball, we can kill hundreds of them in an hour. Because the movement in here is restricted, you, the swordsman have to keep the front line strongly. Don’t worry about your HP because I will heal you.”

The way she talks is easy to understand and her confidence make Hikaru and Kongou feel calm. Hikaru then have some boots of confidence and said: “okay then, let’s do this. Kongou, make sure your spell is on target.”

“Roger that... I’ll try to kill a lot of them in one cast.” Kongou replied with confidence.

“So, are you ready boys?”
Just when she finished her question, she takes out a whistle from her bag and then blew it hard. Loud screeching noise instantly echoing through the pipe afterwards. After a moment of silent, they hear rumbling noise and squeaking sound. Hikaru get a bad feeling about this. A few seconds later, hundreds of small rat charging in towards their direction.

“Come on, caster, starts casting your fireball. Swordsman, just do a whirling slash if they get near you. You already take that skill right? If they saw their friends died, they will startled for a moments.”

Leona is giving commands to Hikaru and Kongou just like a commander leading her army. When the angered rat approaching Hikaru, Kongou finished casting his fireball, it landed in the middle of the enemy swarm. Seeing their friends died the angered rat then stop for a moments and then start to squeal. Hikaru then decided to slash a couple angered rats in front of him. He managed to kill some, but seeing Hikaru slashes their friends, a group of angered rat tries to attack him.

*Fireball* is one of offensive caster basic spells. It has fire elements attacks and has 250 of AOE (Area of Effect) which enabling it to hit multiple enemies within the range.

“Caster, don’t stop your fireball. Keep throwing them at the enemy.” Leona keeps demanding something that’s really hard to do.

“Ugh... There’s just too many of them.” Hikaru is getting his hand full trying to ward off some of the angered rats. Finally an angered rat managed to bite Hikaru on his leg. Distracted by that, more and more rats managed to latch on Hikaru’s body.

“What are you doing swordsman? Use your whirling slash!” Leona shouting to Hikaru who’s just standing there becoming the angered rats target.

*Whirling slash* is swordsman skills that allows them to turn their body and slashes all enemy within their weapon range.

“Ugh...Urya...” just then Hikaru's body spin and wards off the angered rats that’s been sticking to him and kills them.

“See, it’s not that hard to kills hundreds of them. You just need to keep focused. Here’s, some helping buff.” After saying that, Leona starts to cast her skill. When she finishes, the HP and MP of the party refilled by 10%. She also cast some defense up skill on Hikaru to help him.

After some times, Hikaru and Kongou already adapted to battle and becoming better in killing the angered rat mobs. They managed to land their skill better and mastered the way to maintain the party formation. Finally they managed to kill the last one of the angered rat.

“Whoa... What a fierce battle.” Hikaru then fall down to the ground exhausted.

“Phew... Finally we managed to kill all of them.” Kongou let out a big sigh to show that he is exhausted.
“Not bad... To see that we managed to level up 2 times and get a decent amount of gold.” Said Leona, who seemed to get through the hunts without much trouble.

“Whoa! I didn’t realize that we leveled up two times and collects 1300 gold. We’re now level 8. Yeah...” Hikaru’s seemed surprised when he’s looking at his status window.

“I guess I won’t punish the two of you seeing that you have learned a lot from this battle. Huh... Hunting in the sewer, ruins my manicure.” Leona is saying that in an evil manner while looking at her nails.

“Hey, you’re just taking it easy. It seems like we’re just a slave that’s working for you. Look here, we’re dead tired while you don’t even try to catch your breath. And what about the punishment, we’re not your underling, we’re your teammates.” Kongou is angered by Leona words.

“Firstly, in that battle, I used my skill to keep both of you alive. If I’m not here, both of you probably already died long time ago. So, I’m working hard here just like you. Secondly, I’m giving you punishment if you make a mistake. For example, the swordsman there, if he breaks our formation, our party will be vulnerable to enemy attacks. And if he breaks the formation I will give him punishment. And you, don’t you realized I’m kindly enough to take both of you to hunt in here. Not many people know about the trick to gather the angered rats. And while doing that, I’m helping the both of you to adapt to the battle system. Don’t you realize that your skills is much more accurate now, caster?” Leona said all of that haughtily.

Hearing all of that Kongou can only grind his teeth. He is disappointed in himself and accepted the fact that right now, Leona is better than them. He then looked down and seems to be reflecting on his mistake.

“Well said Leona. It is true in fact in this battle we learned a lot and we realized that our skill is below yours. But can you please call us using our names? Don’t call us swordsman or caster anymore. We have our name. Mine is Hikaru and his is Kongou.” Hikaru is saying all of that with a big smile on his face.

“Hey Hikaru... You don’t seem offended with her words.”

“Not at all... After all what she said is the truth. Right now we may be lacking in some area. But we will catch up to her in no time. Hahaha... I’m looking forward to our next hunt with you again Leona.”

“What? You’re still planning to team up with this witch? Her words can easily slice us in two.” Kongou seems to be protesting.

“Hehehe... I think we can learn a lot from her. Instead of asking to some high level player that is only just telling us the theory. She could accompany us in our battle. It’s like learning battle from the teacher is better than learning from the books.” Hikaru keeps his big smile on his face. He must be feeling happy to find dependable teammates.
“Hohoho... It seems like you realized of how great I am Swords.. I mean Hikaru. Hohoho... I’m looking forward to see how you try to catch up with me. I hope both of you could amuse me.” Leona is laughing hard and she’s so full of herself.

“So let’s be friends shall we?” while saying that Hikaru stand up and offering his hand.

“Well... If you insist...” Leona took Hikaru’s hand acting like if she was forced to accept it.

“So let us head back to town. I think we’ve done enough for today. And my stomach is grumbling.” Said Kongou who has been silent for some time.

After that, they decided to go back to Edelweiss city. Seeing the time is already evening, Hikaru and Kongou decided to have dinner first.

“Well then, we’re going to take some dinner first. Let’s meet up again in an hour. See you later Leona.”

“I guess I’ll have my lunch too and take a shower. My body feels dirty and smelly. Well then, I’ll log out first.” She said while sniffing at her robe. After that a light envelopes her and then she disappear.

“Man... What’s her problem anyway? Her face is pretty but her words are sharp. I think she’s just some rich spoiled little brat. But to think she is older than us, there are a lot of people who play RO huh?” Kongou asks Hikaru while putting his elbow in Hikaru’s shoulder.

“I think she’s just lonely. Anyway, let’s log out. My stomach is already rumbling. Let’s meet up again in an hour.” Hikaru said that while holding his stomach. His body is then covered by light and he disappears. Seeing that his friend is gone, Kongou then do the same thing.
In a small building located at the outskirts of Memoria – the city of time, a girl is preparing a meal in the kitchen. While she’s cooking, she can hear some footsteps approaching. “Welcome home Master...” she said that while bowing down to show some respect to the person.

“Yeah... I’m back, Sakuya.” A man in a black outfit enters the kitchen. He’s not too tall but his body is thin. He is dressed black from the tip of his head until the bottom of his toes. His face also covered with a mask only leaves his black eyes and hair to be seen. He’s then leaning to one of the pillars in the kitchen.

“I’m cooking some wild bear meat, some grilled vegetable and gryphon’s leg soup. They’ll be ready in a minute.” Sakuya said while turning back and resuming her cooking.

Minutes later, a tasty fragrance fulfilled the kitchen. Her cooking has finished. She then set up the food in the dining table, taking out some cutleries and sitting down. She’s then looking to her master and said: “come on... Just sit down already, I didn’t have to tell you that right? Let us eat master.”

After hearing that, he sits down at the table and Sakuya starts to give him three slices of meat and handling out a bowl of gryphon’s leg soup. She’s then put almost all of the grilled vegetable into his plate.

“Hey... Don’t you think this is too much?” the black guy lowers down his mask and then starts to complain.

“But, you must be tired from hunting all day long master. You need to eat a lot to recover your stamina.”

The black man puts his hand at his head while shaking his head. But then he picks up his knife and fork and start to cut some bear meat and put it in his mouth. Seeing that, Sakuya then starts to eat. A few minutes later, the plates on the table are empty.

“So, how is it Master?” Sakuya ask him while she starts to pick up the dishes.

“IT’s good.” He didn’t say much in response.

Hearing that, Sakuya smiles and starts to hum while she washes the dishes.

After that her master stands up and putting back his mask on. “I’m going to log out for a moments.”

“Very well Master... I shall wait for your return.” Sakuya then gives him a bow and after that he disappears along the lights.

After finished with the dishes, Sakuya then decided to take a shower. Her status as a NPC didn’t tells her to take a shower. It is also isn’t mentioned in the guardian task list. But she just feels that she has to take a shower. After finished her shower and look for her master who hasn’t came back, she then decides to dance to help her hair to dry up.
She’s dancing at the building halls. The hall isn’t too big and the lightning is dim. There’s only moonlight to help brighten the room. But her dancing is really beautiful. As if she was born to dance. She’s dancing the same dance as the one in the fountain. Everybody who’s watching this surely won’t forget it. When she finished her dance, she was surprised to see his master standing at the corner. She can feel her face turns red and she try to say something but her voice is trembling.

“Ma, ma, master... How long you’ve been there?”

“From the very beginning.”

Hearing that, she feels embarrassed and then turns her body around.

“You don’t have to be shy; after all, your dance is marvelous. You danced all the time whenever I’m away right? I also know the other day you danced at the fountain.” He calmly said all of that.

She was shocked when she hears that. She turns her head a little bit and says:

“How, ho, how did you know master?”

“When I see your status bar, there’s the dance of time buff, and when I walked at the town, I keep hearing rumor about a goddess show up at Edelweiss fountain.” He said that while walking towards Sakuya.

After hearing that from her master she can feels that her head is about to explode.

“Come on, don’t feel embarrassed. I like seeing you dance.” He says that while patting her head. “Cheer up already, we’re going out tonight.”

When Sakuya hears that, she slowly starts to stand and tidy up her clothes. Both of them then walk out of the building and then walk towards the city. Not long, they arrive at Memoria city.

Memoria city is full of buildings that looked like chapels, full of stained glass and have a bell on top of every building. Many canals run through the city and you can use a gondola to enjoy a tour around the city just like a replica of Venice. A big and tall clock tower can be seen standing in the middle of the town. Every hour, all of the bells chime together making a loud noise that can be heard at every corner of the city. This is Memoria – the city of time.

After that, they walk towards the warp portal. The master then starts talking to the NPC and pays the warps fee. After that both of them approaches the warp portal and a lights shine upon them. A few seconds later, they disappeared.

They have arrived to their destination but it seemed to be in the middle of the forest. The forest is filled with giant trees and it is dark, the trees branches and leaf covered the sky hindering the moonlight. And if you look carefully, some of the trees are connected with their giant branch. After a few seconds, a firefly starts to show up from behind the tree, giving
some light the forest. Another firefly to show up and another one show up, another one, until finally thousands of fireflies shows up and brighten up the dark forest. Makes it easier to see, that some of the giant trees have doors and windows. There are also stairs made from vines hanging around the trees. This is Illidian – the fairy hideout.

“Master, what are we going to do here?”

“Just follow me.”

The master start’s to walks into the forest followed by Sakuya. They climb a couple vine stairs and walks to one of the tree dead ends. But her master keeps walking forwards and they are walking through some hidden passage located at the back of another tree. The branches then start to going down and finally, they arrived at a small vacant land. In the right side of the land, a spring with clear water flows to the middle of the forest. At the end of land, a giant sakura tree is blossoming. The branches are full of pink flowers and it is glowing. A wind is passing by causing some of the petals to falls down from the tree, giving off a romantic ambience.

“It’s beautiful.” Sakuya stand there frozen seeing the spectacular view in front of her eyes.

“You may know about the giant sacred tree from your database, but seeing it with your own eyes is different from what it tells you right?”

“Yes, master...” Sakuya which still in awe can only muttered those words.

The master then starts to look for a space to set up a tent. He then starts making a tent and a bonfire. After he finished setting up the tent he then says: “You can sleep inside Sakuya, I’ll sleep outside in a sleeping bag.”

“Whoa, you can’t do that master. You’re the one who should sleep inside and I’m the one who sleep outside.” Sakuya is giving her objection to her master.

“Well... we can just sleep together inside then.” Her master saying that makes her hearts throbbing.

“I’m kidding. Just go inside and sleep will you?”

“Errm... Okay then... By the way master, are we here just for that? Or for our honeymoon?” Sakuya is saying the last sentence with almost no sounds coming out from her. To make sure that her master can’t hear them.

“Of course not, you’ll know our reasons in the morning. By the way, what is your last question? I can’t hear them well. Some honey or something?”

Sakuya surprised that her master can hear her voice. Her face turn a little bit red and she said. “No, nothing... I’ll go inside to sleep then, master. Good night.” She bows down to his master and then goes inside the tent.
The master then takes out a sleeping bag from his bag and then sleeps outside in front of the fire.

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After a few hours has passed, Sakuya wakes up from her sleep. She then walks out from the tent and then she saw her master in front of the tree. She then decides to greet him.

“Good morning master. What are you doing?”

Her master seems a little bit surprised seeing her. “Oh, good morning Sakuya. Do you sleep well last night? I’m collecting the waters that falls from the tree.”

She saw her master with his hand up holding some kind of tube. He is collecting water that falls from the flowers of the tree. After a few minutes the tube is full of water and he closed the tube. Sakuya is curious about it.

“What is that master?”

“This is the morning dew. I have a hard time figuring out on how to acquire it. After all even your database only tells that the giant sacred tree is located at Illidian and the morning dew is collected from the tree. This is the last item I need to complete the forgotten melody quest. With this, I can accompany you when you’re dancing.”

Hearing that, Sakuya smiles and said: “I see... By the way, are you hungry master? Do you want me to cook something for you?”

“Sure... How about some wild mushroom soup? There are some mushroom near the springs, and the springs water taste great.”

With that said, Sakuya quickly goes to the spring to collects some mushroom. She then cooks the soup while her master is lying down inside the tent. When she finished cooking, she goes inside the tent and finds her master is sleeping. She’s then moving closer to him carefully, to make sure that he didn’t awake. She is then looks at her master face and slowly she is moving closer. When their face is closed enough, her master eyes suddenly opened, surprising her which makes her jumped back a little.

“What are you doing Sakuya?” her master asks while he sits and rubs his eyes.

“No, nothing... I’m I’m ju-just trying to tells you that the soup is ready.” Her answer is a little bit stuttered and her face is beet red.

“So that’s what awoken me. It smells good as usual.”

Hearing that, Sakuya stand up and try to hide her embarrassment. Then she walks out the tent and pours some of the soup to the bowl. “Here’s your soup master. Make sure you finished them.”

“I will. Thank you Sakuya.”
After they had their breakfast, her master clear up the tent and put it back in his bag. They then walks up the same branch that they used to came down. When they reach the heart of the city, they can see a lot of fairy flying and some players near the warp portal.

When they’re nearing the warp portal, some of the players then saw Sakuya. One of them then decided to approach her and greets her.

“Hey, isn’t it the dancer from the fountain. I saw you the other day. What’re you doing here? How about hunting with me?” He is saying that while touching her shoulder.

“Please, don’t disturb me. And don’t touch me.” Sakuya is saying that with her body trembling a little bit.

“Oh, did I scare you? Come on, don’t be like that. We’re not bad people. We won’t hurt you.” He is keep forcing Sakuya to come with him. He doesn’t looks like a bad people. His face is pretty handsome and his body is proportional. But for some reason, he keeps cornered Sakuya.

Just then, her master grabs the man hand and throws it aside. You can feel the master anger from his eyes. “Don’t you hear her? Let go of your hand and leave her alone.”

“Just who the hell are you? Some passersby trying to be a hero? Don’t you know who I am?” the man then challenges him.

“I don’t care who you are. But she is mine.” The master said that with full of emotion.

A huge man then appeared behind him. He has a big and tall body figure. His hair is colored in red and he seemed to be the leader of the party. “Just let it go Calvin. He isn’t worth your time.”

“What are you saying Dimitry, I can’t possibly let this one go. He dares to insult me in front of our party. What do you says Carla?” He’s asking to the girl in the party. She is using glasses, slender figure, wearing green robe, and have a purple hair styled in a bun.

“Eeh... ju-just gi-give him a li-little beating Calvin, af-after th-that let’s co-continue our hunt.” The girls seemed to have a little bit speaking problems. We don’t know if she was just shy or if she was stammered.

“That’s what I like about you Carla. Let me show him the power of an advanced class.” Judging by his words, their party seemed to be made of high leveled player. All of them seemed to be in the advanced class. “Are you scared now huh? After hearing our levels?” He tries to intimidate the master.

“Not at all.” The master replied.

“Then, let me show you the differences in our level.” Calvin said that cockily.

After that, both of them shakes hand hardly and shout, “Let’s duel”. A few seconds latter a big system message pop out above them. It says,” Requesting a Judge”. 
After seeing that text, a fairy then approaches them and says: "My name is Flying Fairy no.12 NPC. Both of you doing this without anyone forcing you to fight right?"

Both of them nod to the fairy, and then the fairy continuing his speech. "Confirming the duel. Duel battle number: 103. Kuro vs. Calvin. Starting in 30 seconds. 29, 28, 27, 26..."

With the time nearing the duel, even though Sakuya is happy that her master defends her, but she looked worried. The Master, which his name announced as Kuro, seemed to be angry. Calvin on the other hand looked serious and pulls out a spear. His advanced class is lancer which utilizes the usage of spear. Mean while his party member is watching carefully from the sidelines.

"...5, 4,3,2,1, Start..." shouts the fairy.

Just when he signals the start of the battle, Calvin suddenly dashed off while trusting his spear. Kuro apparently see that one coming. He moves his body a little bit to the side and the tip of the spear just goes past him.

"So you can see that one coming heh? But, try to dodge this..." after saying that, Calvin activated one of basic swordsman skill, the *whirling slash*. Becoming an advanced class in this game required a mastery of the basic class. Calvin shows that by being able to applying some basic swordsman class, the *whirling slash*. This skill can utilize the spear length and useful to cover the attack pattern of spear which usually only focused on the front and weak to the sides.

Seeing the skills activated by Calvin, Kuro blocks the attack that’s coming from his back using only his right hand.

"Tch... You managed to block that one. I think it’s time for me to get serious then." After saying that, Calvin hold his spear with both hand and performed another skill, *thousand thrust*.

*Thousand thrust* is a lancer advanced class skills, which allows them to perform 10 thrust within 3 seconds. This is useful because performing regular attacks using a spear require a lot of time to draw back the spear once it is thrusted at the enemy.

But Kuro calmly parry all of Calvin’s attack using his right hand only.

"Impossible, how can he block Calvin attack using his fist? Did he hides something in his arm?" one of Calvin teammates saying that while doubting Kuro’s move.

"Can’t you guys see it, that man is faster than Calvin, that’s why he can see all of Calvin’s attack. But seeing in the way he battle, maybe he’s a shinobi or an assassin. He certainly hides his weapon in his right arm; nobody can block a spear using his fist only. Maybe he only increases his AGI, it can be said by the way he only dodges and parry but he haven’t launches an attack yet.” Dimitry said while calmly observing the battle.
“h-he is an a-assassin. h-he hi-hides his we-weapon in his arm. B-but th-that is all th-that I c-can see...” Carla commented at Kuro’s action.

The battle continues for several minutes with Calvin keeps attacking and Kuro keeps dodge and parry his attacks. It starts to irritate Calvin.

“Why are you keep moving around, dodging and blocking my attack all the time. Are you too afraid to attack me? Or my chain attack leaves you no space to strike back?”

A moment later, Calvin suddenly fell onto his knees. He can feel that his sense starting to goes numb. He is looking at his arms and showing a confused face.

“Why? What’s happening to me?” When he finished his sentence he fell down to the ground and scattered into glowing dust.

“Duel battle number: 103. Kuro vs. Calvin, Kuro wins. The battle duration is 6 minutes and 32 seconds.” The judge NPC announcing the results of the duel.

“Impossible...” Calvin party members just stood there seeing a battle with impossible results. They didn’t see Calvin get attacked for the whole battle and

“Easier than I expected.” Kuro said that and then he starts to walk towards Sakuya who’s looked relieve. He pats her head and says: “Why are you so worried? Don’t let that expression ruins your beautiful face.”

After hearing that, Sakuya then tries to smile. “I’m glad you’re okay master.”

Both of them then start walking towards the warp portal. But before they enter the warp portal, Dimitry starts to ask him: “how did you defeat him?”

“I guess all of you are too smart. Let me tell you, he is so careless; he didn’t even try to see his remaining HP in the whole time. All of you too, you believe that he can win easily, so none of you who is his party member see his HP bar that reduces continuously and the status ailments that is affecting him.”

“Yeah, it is true that we underestimated you and get so careless. I understand that you use poison, but tell me how did you managed to hit him?” Dimitry is demanding Kuro to tell him about the battle.

“None of you can see my attacks then? I was hoping that glasses girl could see it though, because I didn’t even show you my true speed. Let me teach you the differences in our skills then. I only grazed him once at his left waist when I first dodged his rush attack. One hit is all I need. Didn’t you say that I’m not even worth of your time? Don’t make me laugh. I can easily defeat you in one attack.” Kuro saying all of that while staring with merciless eyes.

Hearing all of that, Dimitry can’t say anything to fight Kuro backs. He realized that their high level makes them reckless. He also recognized that Kuro is much more superior to him and
his party. He is then remembering the name that defeated his teammates, Kuro, while the black man disappears in light.

Kuro and Sakuya then show up at Edelweiss city. They walked to the fountain and then they sits on the bench. Sakuya is trying to say something but she hesitated. Kuro can see all of that and said:

“What is it?”

“No-nothing... I just want to say thank you...” she then blushed remembering how Kuro said that she belongs to him.

“I don’t need that. I’m just doing my job as your master.” Kuro said that calmly. It seems like his anger has gone out.

Sakuya than starts to get embarrassed and instantly buries her arm into her face. She tries to calm down and said: “by the way master, I just found out your name from the battle before. Can I call you using your name?”

Strangely Kuro laughs hearing Sakuya’s words: “Hahaha... How can that be? You can always see my name from your party windows, stupid... Hahaha... Sure, you can call me anything.”

“Umm, I never think of that. Okay then master, let me say it K-K-Kuro-sama...” for a milliseconds she tries to call him just using his name, but she’s too shy to do that.

“Don’t be so tense when you say my name. You’re making it sounds like we just know each other recently. Anyway, I’m going to log out to have my breakfast. That battle makes me hungry. It won’t be long. You can wait for me here or you can wait at the house. After that I’m going to take you to a good place. Okay?” Kuro then stands up and blinding lights starts to envelop him.

“Alright, Kuro-sama... I’m waiting for your return.” She said while bowing down to him as he disappears.

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The time still shows that it was still early morning, but a lot of activities can be seen from a small house in Arakawa district. Middle aged men sit at the dining table while reading his newspaper. A younger woman meanwhile, cooking in the kitchen. Moments later, a young boy enters the room silently. His body is thin, and he looked gloomy. His hair is messy and looks like he hasn’t cut his hair for a long time. It starts to cover his eyes.

The boy then sits at the table. Without saying anything, the middle aged man looks at the boy from behind his newspaper. The woman finished her cooking and setting up the food at the table. The three of them then starts to eat in silent.
The boy finishes his meal quickly and then said in a small volume: “I’m done eating, thank you for the food.” Then he stands, puts his empty dish at the sink and then walks out of the kitchen.

“Looked at that boy, he didn’t do anything all day, he only appears at meal time. Other than that, he rarely goes out of his room. Didn’t he think about his future? Even the last 3 months he stop going to schools.” The middle aged man let out a sigh while complaining.

“You know, it’s not Ryuuji’s fault. His friends at schools bully him. It’s not like he did anything wrong. Just give him some times to be alone.” The woman tries to defend the boy.

“It’s because you’re too soft on him. He’s becoming a weak and spoiled son.” The man’s tone is increasing.

“Don’t be too hard on him. After all he’s still in his puberty; he’s still figuring out his identity.” The woman answered in a soft voice, try to calm his husband.

“You know, I’m saying this just because I’m worried about his future.” The father starts to calm down and let out a big sigh.

The boy can hear their conversation, but he is not showing any reaction. He starts to walk towards his room, putting on his Syder, lie down on his bed and press the power button.

*****

It is still early in the morning, not a lot of activities in Edelweiss town. The shops are open for 24 hours, but not a lot of player can be seen during the early morning. Meanwhile, a girl in maiden robe is sitting in a bench near the city fountain plaza. She’s waiting for someone. With nothing to do, she closes her eyes and starts humming. The note is beautiful but you can feel that it is full of sorrow and solitude. A couple of birds start to gather around her. When she opens her eyes, Kuro is already standing in front of her. She is shocked a little bit and shy. She then tries to talk: “Ku-Kuro-sama... Just how long have you been there?”

“From the very beginning.”

“Geez... why don’t you say something?” she then puffed her cheeks try to act angry.

“I don’t want to disturb you.” He said that in a calm voice. “Are you ready to go, Sakuya?”

“Yes, Kuro-sama. Where are we heading today?” Sakuya asked in curiosity.

“Firstly, we’re going to the bard headquarter to finish the mission. After that we’re going to buy some things.” He said that while starts walking toward the warp portal followed by Sakuya behind.

They arrived at a new city. There is a big castle standing at the top of the hill. Tall brick wall spreads from one side of the city to the other end. Making the city surrounded by brick wall and mountains. A firm stone gate becomes the only way in and out of the city. The city
building then graded from the top of the hill to the bottom neatly. Show the great skills of the architect. This is Avalon—the city of vanguard. Avalon is the capital city of east continent which mainly covered by mountain range and forest. It is the city with the largest and most comprehensive building in RO. All of the headquarters branch can be found here. Which makes it becomes one of the player favorites base.

“We’re going to stop by the bard headquarters first.” After he said that, Kuro and Sakuya start to walk towards the bard headquarters. It is located near the big castle. When they enter Kuro then starts to report his quest completion to one of the NPC. He then acquired one bard skills named, the forgotten melody. After that, they are heading to the shopping district of the town. The market is full of NPC and players. It is one of the busiest markets in RO beside the black factory and the harbor bay. They then enter to a tailor shops. The NPC inside the shops is a really old man with glasses. He approaches them and gives a greetings: “well, look who’s coming. Welcome sir.”

“Is my order ready?” Kuro asked to the old man.

“Yours are ready, but as for the other one, don’t you think we need to do some fitting?” the old man says that while looking at Sakuya.

“Don’t do that. It won’t be a surprise then. Hehehe... I’ll just take them with me.” Kuro saying that in a suspicious tone making Sakuya a little bit scared. After that, he’s handing out a coin purse. “Here’s the payment.”

“I guess you’re right sir.” The old man smiles a little and then handing out two packages to Kuro. After he gave the package, he checks the amount of gold in the bag. “It is just the exact amount as the deal. Thank you for the business sir.” The old man gives a little bow.

Both of them then walks outside of the shop, and starts examining the market. Kuro then decided to walks around a little bit since he looked like have other thing to buy.

Not long after that, Sakuya is asking in curiosity while pointing at the packages is Kuro’s hand.

“Kuro-sama, what are those?”

“It’s nothing... Oh yeah, can you wait a little bit here. I’m going to go inside that shop for a moment.”

Kuro answers makes Sakuya more willing to know what is inside the packages. Just when she’s deep thinking about what could be inside it, Kuro has came out of the shop and call for her. The packages are gone from his hand; he must have put it inside his inventory. They then walked towards the warp portal.

Kuro then turn his head towards Sakuya and asked: “What do you want to do Sakuya? We still have some time to spare. My agenda is starting at 6 o’clock in the evening.”
“Hmm... I don’t know have anything that I wanted to do in particular. But, maybe we can hunt for some cooking ingredients.” Sakuya answered while thinking.

“Seems like a plan... What ingredients do you want to acquire?”

“Hmm... I always want to try some salamander meat. Do you think we can hunt some?”

“Sure. Let’s go to Magma dungeon then. But it’s too far from here. Let’s go to Memoria first.”

After that, both of them enter the warp portal.

*****

“How long are they planning to makes me wait?” a blond girl in a red cape kicking some stones and moving back and forth near the Edelweiss city fountain plaza. Not long after that, two boys seemed to appear near the bench. “You’re late” she scolds them.

“Sorry, today I planned to sleep at Kongou house. But when I arrived, we talked and forgot about our meeting.” A boy with a sword hanging at his waist, begging for forgiveness with both of his hand clasped together in front of his forehead.

“Yeah, please forgive us Leona.” The other boy in a purple rob, who is referred as Kongou doing the same thing.

“Well I guess I can let you guys go away without punishment this time.” She said while trying to forgive them but giving some means look.

“Th-thank you Leona.” Both of the boys said while smiling in fear.

“By the way, are we really going to go to the festival tonight?” Kongou ask to Leona, confirming their plan.

“Yes, of course. I want to see how common people like you have a celebration.” She said it coldly.

“So how are we going to go there? Are we going to walk?” the other boy with the sword ask.

“Don’t be silly Hikaru; it will be too late for the festival then. We’re going there using warp portal.” Leona replied while mocking Hikaru.

“But don’t we have to pay gold to use the warp portal?” Kongou is worrying about their gold.

“Don’t worry about that, it only takes 300 gold to warps to Seaside shore. I never know that you guys are so poor. Hohoho...” Kongou is ticked off hearing Leona words.

“Yoouu...” Kongou is glaring at Leona furiously.

“Come on, stop it already, let’s just go... Otherwise, we may be late.” Hikaru tries to get between them and separates them.
The three of them then walks toward the warp portal. They paid for the fee to the Warp Portal NPC then disappeared along with light.

They arrived at a shore but what surprises them is the amount of people. There seemed to be a lot of people coming tonight to celebrate the starts of summer festival hundreds of them, maybe thousands.

The seaside shore that night is decorated with lampions. There is no tall building in the city and they are made from wood. Even some of the building is floating in the middle of the sea. They’re connected to the shore by wooden bridges. At the beach, a lot of food stall enliven the night. There is even music played at the stage. The stage is located in the middle of the crowd. So, this is the Seaside shore – the city of festival.

“Whoa, amazing...” Kongou and Hikaru stand frozen at their place looking at the city and the players.

“Not bad I guess. So what are you guys waiting for? Let’s see the entire stall.” Leona said that while moving forwards. Both of them couldn’t see it but her eyes are glimmering in admiration.

The three of them then walking from stall to stall and they bought some foods. Until they’re nearing the stage, the music suddenly stops and somebody walks up on the stage. He’s wearing short pants and Hawaiian shirts. Wear black sunglasses and red spiky hair. He takes out a microphone and then shouting loud: “Hey guys are you enjoying the festival tonight??”

“Yeah” the crowds replied together.

“Let me introduce myself. My name is Genki and I’m one of the GM in charge for this events. We have some performances tonight and fireworks display on midnight. But before that, let’s start up with some events.”

“Whoa...” all of the players surprised hearing that.

“For tonight events, the reward for the winner is 100.000 gold.” Genki is announcing with full of energy.

The crowds are growing wild hearing the amounts of the prize money

“Are you ready guys? Only the fastest player to complete the quest is the winner... Prepare yourself. the quest item can be found among the hundreds of stall tonight... bring me 1 apple candy, 1 portion of deep sea takoyaki, and 10 pieces of yakitori. Starting now!”

Teeeeeet. A loud noise of horn, signal the starts of the quest. As a quest window has appeared for every players at seaside shore tonight. The crowds then turn into havoc as they tried to find the stall. Kongou, Hikaru, and Leona are pushed aside by the other players.

“Ugh, how dare they do this to me?” Leona is angry as she sits down at the ground. “No matter what, Kongou, Hikaru, we have to win this quest! We will scatter and each person has
to find one item. Because I think most of the player work alone, so we have a chance to be the fastest one. She said that with a fire burning from her eyes.

“Yes mam.” Both of them can only say that, because they’re afraid to refuse her command.

“Kongou, you go to the east, and Hikaru, you go to the west. I’ll search from north to the south.” She said that as she stands up and immediately runs to the north part of the shore.

“Whew, she’s sure full of energy, come on Kongou let’s split up. She’s going to kill us if we didn’t find at least one item.” Hikaru said that and then he starts running into the crowds.

The seaside shore suddenly filled with noises of the player who’s looking for the stall. Kongou and Hikaru got a message from Leona saying that she found the apple candy already. When they read that, they’re moving like crazy searching for the other item. Kongou then found out a long line in front of the deep sea takoyaki stall.

Hikaru then receive a message that Kongou already find the takoyaki stall. A few seconds later a message from Leona came in. “If you fail to find the yakitori, I’ll make sure that you can’t even see your face in the mirror.”

Reading the crazy message he starts to worry. Yakitori, yakitori, yakitori. Aha, he then sees the stall at the end of road and a long line can be seen in front of it. “I found the stall but the line is long”.

He sends the message to Leona and Kongou. And he instantly got a reply. “Just buy it and comes to the stage. Do whatever it takes.” He’s waiting on the line impatiently but the line slowly moves forward. He can’t wait any longer and decided to cut in the line.

When another player sees what Hikaru is doing, he’s trying to do the same. Then the crazy mass of people which has line up neatly in front of the stall became a mess. Hikaru which is the source of this trouble is pushed around in the middle of the crowd.

In the middle of that confusion, Hikaru is using his strength to reach the stall. “It’s nothing compared to my dark future if I fail to buy it for Leona.”

He finally managed to buy the yakitori. But he’s appearance is now messy. Looks like if his health only has 1 point remaining even though he didn’t take any damage.

After acquiring the yakitori, he runs as fast as he can. When he’s nearing the stage, he can see Leona shouting to him to hurry up. He can see Kongou lying down on the ground exhausted, and his appearance now is worst than Hikaru. He then reach Leona and gives her his yakitori. Leona then runs at a speed of light towards the stage.

Genki seeing Leona coming towards him starts to attract the crowd. “It seems like we almost have the winner here guys.”

Leona then saw another player try to run to the stage too. She then let out a high pitched scream which silences the crowd and forcing them to cover their ear.
“Whoa, crazy...” Hikaru talks to Kongou, while both of them covering their ear using their arms.

The other player who’s running to the stage stops his run and covers his ears too. Seeing that Leona give an evil smirk and keep running until she finally reach the stage and climb up.

“Congratulations!” Genki shouts loud while helping her to stand up. “Here is our winner for today. Give her a round of applause. You’re fast and cute, but your scream just now is scary. Don’t you agree guys?” Genki teases her.

“Hahaha...” the crowds then laugh together.

“Humph...” Leona can only crossed her arm in front of her chest.

“So, tell us about yourself as the winner for tonight event. What is your name miss?”

“Leona.” She replied shortly.

“How did you manage to be the fastest one?”

“I just walk around as usual and finished it without breaking a sweat.”

“Boo...” her arrogant answer get an instant boo from the crowd. Kongou is also giving a fist to show his protest because she doesn’t appreciate his effort.

“Hahaha... You hear her guys. You lost to a girl that is walking around. Anyway, here’s your reward.” Genki then gives Leona a big sack that’s seemed to be heavy and full of gold.

“Once more, give her a round of applause.” Genki gives Leona applause too and show her the stair to get off from the stage.

She then walks off the stage and gather with Kongou and Hikaru. She takes out two big purses from her bag and gives it to Kongou and Hikaru. “Here’s your reward... 25000 golds for each one of you.”

“Hey, that’s...” Kongou tries to protest but his mouth is covered by Hikaru’s hand. “Just shut up will you? She’s going to kill us otherwise.” Hikaru is giving Kongou a warning while both of them turns away from Leona.

“What are you trying to say Kongou?” Leona ask him with an evil stares.

“No, that’s very generous of you.” Kongou is saying that with a bitter smile.

Hikaru can only laugh in his heart seeing the scene.

“Okay, are you ready to dance? Are you ready for some wild action? Please welcome tonight’s special guest.” Genki is welcoming the guest who shows up from behind the stage.
A few hours earlier, Sakuya is taking a bath at her house. She was just finished eating the salamander steak with her master. When he finished, Kuro stand up and logs out immediately. He said that he’s going to eat lunch in the real world. Leave Sakuya behind with nothing to do. After that she decides to take a bath. When she finished her shower, she was surprised to see a package is in front of the bathroom. There is a note on top of it. “Wear this and come to the warp portal. I’m waiting for you.”

She decides to open the packages and surprised to see a beautiful pink dancer dress inside, but it is a little bit too open. Why did she have to wear something like this? Did her master want to tease her for dancing too much? A lot of guesses running down her mind. But she then decides to obey her master words. She changed her clothes and then walked to the warp portal. She was more surprised when she saw her master there.

He was wearing a black tuxedo with his hair neatly combed. Something that Sakuya never expects. He was then approaches her and said: “that dress really suits you.”

Sakuya then blushes a little and replied: “I was surprised to see this when I open the package. And when I try this I’m a little bit embarrassed because it shows off too much. But I’m more surprised to see you dressed like that Kuro-sama.”

Kuro then showing some weird looking smile on his face as if he was forced to smile, then said. “It’s nothing special. Are you ready to go?”

Both of them then start to walks towards the warp portal and disappeared.

When Sakuya opens her eyes, she looked so happy. You can see her eyes glimmering when she saw the scenery. People are gathering in the shore and a lot of them are setting up their stall. She’s then asks her master: “Kuro-sama, can we go look around the stall first?”

“Sure.” Kuro answer with a little smile.

They are strolling around the stall and bought a few snacks. Not long after that, more and more people starts to show up at the shore. When they walk, people start to come between them and separate them until she lost sight of her master. Just then, a few players start to hit on her and surround her to a corner. “Hey, you looked beautiful and your clothes are so daring. Why don’t you come to play with us for a while?”

She was trembling and scared. She then screamed as hard as she can: “master.”

A few seconds later, her master appeared with a worried looks on his face. She then grabs her arm and said: “Come with me!” After that they run into the crowds. Those players try to catch them but it is hard with so many people at the shore. They then decided to give up.

Sakuya and Kuro runs to the back of the stage in the middle of the shore. Kuro then ask: “Are you okay?”

“I’m okay.” Sakuya replied but in truth, she’s still scared.
“How fool of you to get separated from me.” Kuro is showing some frustration.

“But there are too many people at the shore, and Kuro-sama just disappeared from my sight.” She answers with her heads down.

“If that’s the problem, you can hold my hand then!” Kuro is saying that with full of emotion, but he suddenly feel that he’s saying the wrong things. “I di-didn’t mean it like that, it just, you know...” He’s trying to think of an excuse makes him acting weird.

But hearing that Sakuya then showing a gentle smile bow down a little and said: “I understand what you’re trying to say master. Sorry for making you worried about me.”

“What’s with the commotion?” a man with tan skin, black sunglasses, in a short pants, Hawaiian shirt, and red spiky hair show up from behind.

“Nothing Genki, can we just wait here until the time?” Kuro is asking him to let them stay.

“Sure, no problem... Anything for you Kuro.” Genki then disappear again behind the curtain of the stage.

After that, they can hear Genki voices from behind the curtain announcing the starts of an event. But both of them just stand there in silence. Until finally, Genki calls out their name. “Okay, are you ready to dance? Are you ready for some wild action? Please welcome tonight’s special guest, Kuro and Sakuya.”

Sakuya is surprised to hear that, she looks at her master and ask: “What’s the meaning of this Kuro-sama?”

“You know, I just want people to see your dance. I want to do something for you, so I asked Genki to give us a chance to perform.” Kuro explain to her awkwardly.

“But, you didn’t tell me anything about it before. I’m not ready for this.” Sakuya then buries her face in her arms.

“Don’t worry Sakuya. I’ll come with you up stage.” Kuro tries to calm her.

Hearing that Sakuya feels a little bit relieved, she doesn’t know what to do but Kuro already grabs her hand and goes up to the stage. Genki then welcomes them on the stage.

“All of you, prepare to see something that will amaze you. You can’t see this kind of thing every day. How lucky you are to be here tonight. Are you ready, Kuro, Sakuya?” Genki is saying that with full of energy.

“Master, what to do?” Sakuya looks worried and nervous. Kuro then whispers something to her: “don’t worry, just dance.” After saying that, he pushes her to the middle of the stage.

“Okay, the stage is all yours, Kuro, Sakuya.” Genki said that while returning to the backstage.
Seeing Sakuya in the middle of the stage, the crowds starts to be silent. Every player that sees her on stage cannot turn their eyes away. “Hey, isn’t that the beautiful lady from the other day?” Kongou asking Hikaru while keep staring at the girl in the middle of the stage.

“Yes, she’s Sakuya. So beautiful...” Hikaru replied Kongou while his eyes didn’t even blink seeing her.

“Humph... Men all are the same.” Leona said that with a little bit annoyed seeing how both of her party members react.

Sakuya then looked at her master. Kuro then gives her a nod and starts to pull out something from his bag. He is pulling out a violin and readies his stance. Seeing that, Sakuya tries to close her eyes for a second and taking a deep breath. And then his master violin starts to make a wonderful rhyme. Hearing that, she then starts to dance. She was moving around the stage flawlessly. Everyone that seeing her dances was mesmerized; as if they are seeing a goddess dancing on stage.

A couple of minutes later her dance is finished as the song ended. Silence fills the shore and then, a loud cheering voice and applause suddenly can be heard. Wow, wonderful, whoa, awesome, beautiful. All of those praises can be heard from the crowds. Genki then comes up from backstage and giving some comments: “So, such a wonderful performance. What do you think guys? Aren’t you lucky to be here tonight?”

“Yeah...” All of the boys answered together like in the army.

“Oh yeah, don’t you guys want to know more about her?” Genki asking while giving out the microphone to the crowds.

“Yeah...” The crowds replied instantly.

“That performance just now is a dancer skill “the dance of time” combined with the bard combo “the forgotten melody”. It’s not something that you see every day so you better remember it.” Genki explained to the crowd and then turn his head to Sakuya and Kuro. “So, Sakuya, Kuro, do you guys have anything to say?”

Sakuya shook her head. She’s too embarrassed to say anything right now. She didn’t believe of what just happened. But then her master grabs the microphone from Genki and said: “Just for your information, she is mine. I won’t let anybody come near her. So you better leave her alone.”

The crowds suddenly feel silent. They don’t know what happened but they can feel a pressure from his words. A player try to shout from the crowds: “who do you think you are?” and the crowds start to riot. Yeah, who do you think you are? Just die. You can hear all kinds of curses the crowds throw at Kuro. But then, Kuro say something that surprised the crowds.

“Anyone that wants to die can come up to the stage.” The crowds fell in silent once again as they can see death written in Kuro’s eyes. This man is dangerous.
After that, Genki starts to lighten up the mood again while scratching his head a little. “Err... you hear what he said guys, you better leave Sakuya alone or I can’t guarantee your safety.” Hearing those words from Genki, the crowds suddenly get more depressed and gloomy, even the GM can’t guarantee their safety. “Anyway, let’s start the fireworks.” Genki said that in the middle of the awkward silent.

Even though the fireworks are beautiful not many player cares about that. Most of them start to leaves the seaside shore one by one with a broken hearts.

“Come on Kongou, there is nothing that we can do. Just enjoy the fireworks.” Hikaru try to console his friend who has been crying nonstop.

“Hiks... Hiks... but it isn’t fair.” Kongou is sobbing with his nose runny.

On the other hand, Leona eyes are sparkling with admiration. “That man is so cool. I wish I had a boyfriend like him.” Most of the female players who are there at the scene are thinking the same things as her.

But Hikaru is thinking about another thing. His words have so much pressure and he is also willing to fight for Sakuya. I wonder if I can be as good as him. So that is the one that Sakuya calls master.
From the side of a quiet forest, we can hear some sound of swords clashed at each other. A party of three players is raiding the goblin’s camp. We can see that one of a player is carrying sword and he is now colliding with a goblin warrior.

“Hikaru, watch out behind you.” The swordsman got their sword locked with the goblin warrior and didn’t notice that another one is coming from his behind.

“Ugh.” He is slashed from behind and his teammates can see that his HP bar is reducing by a quarter.

“Hopes this help Hikaru.” A girl in a red cape with a blonde ponytail hair, unleashed a skill and a green light envelopes the swordsman.

“Thank you Leona. It’s time for me to teach this goblin some manners. Urya... ” he’s then spinning while slashing the goblins. He just used whirlwing slash, one of basic swordsman skill. When he’s finished, he can see that a goblin archer is aiming at him. The goblin archer is preparing to release his arrow and it’s too late for the swordsman to dodge. But then a fireball struck the goblin archer.

“Heh, don’t worry, I got your back.” Said a boy in a purple robe.

“Thank you Kongou.” Hikaru is giving his appreciation while standing up.

“I guess that settles our hunt for today.” Said Leona. She talks like she was giving a command to the boys.

“Fiuh... what a tiring day...” Kongou let out a sigh.

“Yeah, the enemy is getting harder to beat. Don’t you think we should gather more people for our party?” Hikaru ask the party about their opinion.

“I think that’s a good idea.” Said Kongou. But Leona directly opposes that opinion. “No, I don’t think if that’s a good idea. The bigger our party size is, the more monster that we should kill. Let’s just focuses on our teamwork and formation.”

“I guess you have a point.” Hikaru said while looking at Leona.

“What are you looking at? Let’s head back to the town.” Leona can see that he is staring at her and return with an angry looks.

It’s been one week since Hikaru first login to Rebirth online, and five days since he and Kongou partying up with Leona. Although she seemed to be selfish, but looking at their progress, it seemed that Leona is really a capable player. In fact, the three of them have reach level 20. It is drawing Hikaru’s attention at how knowledgeable is her. “Hey, Leona. How can you know about a lot of stuff? I mean, you’re just a beginner just like us.”

“I guess, if you really want to know, I can tell you a secret.”
“Really?” Kongou seemed to be interested in the matter.

“I guess, you already know that not many players have reached their advances class. Only some players that are really capable of mastering their skill can reach that stage. My brother is one of them.” Leona explains to them while bragging about his brother.

“Whoa, that’s amazing. Why don’t you tell us about this earlier? Can we meet with your brother? Please!” Hikaru is asking with his eyes filled with hope and begging to her.

“Well, I guess... If you really insist... But let me warn you guys, he’s a little weird.”

“Thank you Leona.” Hikaru’s replied with a big smile.

The three of them then goes back to Edelweiss. When they arrive, the boys decided to wait at the fountain plaza while Leona is contacting her brother. “He’ll be here in a moments, he’s really happy to meet you guys.”

A few minutes later, an eccentric man show ups. He’s giving a wave to Leona from far away. He’s then running towards them. And suddenly he jumps while trying to hug her. “Leona, my dear sister.”

But then she dodges and the man fell to the fountain. The man protested to her. “Ugh, Leona. Why are you avoiding me? Don’t you know I’m worried about you? At least tell me if you’re going to hunt.”

“Like hell I will.” She’s answering harshly. “By the way, I would like you to meet my party. The swordsman here is Hikaru, and the caster there is Kongou. They said that they want to meet you.”

“Ooh, it would be an honor for me to meet my sister friends. Let me introduce myself, my name is Roberto, the most handsome and skilled man in here. Thank you to the both of you for taking care of my beloved sister.” He’s a self-centered man. He’s actually handsome, with blue eyes and blond hair just like Leona. His posture also great and seemed to have quite bit of muscle. But seeing from his words we can see why he’s not popular with the ladies.

“Just die! You’re just self-proclaimed that you’re handsome. Although you’re a bit skilled, in reality you’re just stupid. Just die you sis-com.” Leona is saying those merciless words with and evil looks in her eyes. Sending Roberto to fall on his knees and depressed.

Hikaru and Kongou can only gives a weird smile while looking at the scene. Both of them now know where her attitude and harsh words came from. Leona then said to them while staring at his brother: “Let me be the one who introduces him. Hey, stand up you fool!”

“His name is Roberto. He’s my older brother. He is stupid but. Although I don’t want to admit this, his level is pretty high. His advanced class is chef. That’s why he’s wearing chef outfit. He also led a guild named Blue Rose.” She’s introducing her brother while pretending that he’s not there.
“Whoa, how long does it take to reach advanced class? And why are you choosing chef for your advanced class?” Hikaru bombards him with a lot of question.

“Hehehe... I guess it only takes a week for a genius like me to reach advanced class. And I’m choosing chef as my advanced class because it’s interesting.” He said that while making a pose.

“That’s a lie. It takes two months for him to reach advanced class. It’s because he’s played at the launching of the server so he gets help to leveled up from other players. Other than that, he trick other to hunt while he’s resting with making excuses like my stomach is hurting, or I twisted my ankle, and many more.” Leona harsh words makes Roberto depressed again and falls to the ground.

“Hey, don’t say such harsh words. If he can be an advanced class, it means that he surely have the skill.” Kongou tried to defense for Roberto.

Hearing some praises Roberto instantly stand up and showing his big smile and said: “that’s true, although sometimes I’m just slacking off; it still takes some skill to reach advanced class. You guys are interesting. Why don’t you come to my guild base? I’ll cook something for you in return.”

“Really?” both Hikaru and Kongou seeing to him with eyes of disbelieve.

“But my base is at the black factory. You guys have enough gold to warp there right?” he’s asking them.

“Of course they have. After all I give both of them 25.000 gold each.” Leona tells Roberto to boast.

“Whoa, as expected of my beloved sister.” He said that while trying to hug her again and she dodge it once more and giving order to the party. “Let’s start moving!”

They then walk towards the warp portal and confirming that they will go to black factory. After paying the fee to the NPC, the four of them enveloped in lights and disappear.

Black factory – the city of crafter and blacksmith. It also can be said as the city of commoner class. A lot of commoner class gathered in here. It is one of the biggest cities in RO. It is located in the south continent which mostly covered by mountains and desserts. As the name implies, this city is mainly filled with a lot of big building. Those building are painted in black and releasing black smoke from their exhaust. The sound of machinery can be heard around the town. It’s like an industrial district. Kongou and Hikaru seemed to be surprised at how big is the city. But Leona seems like that she has come to this place a couple times.

“My guild base is a little bit to the west of the town.” Roberto points to the direction. After that, he guide their way.

While they are walking to Roberto’s base, they see a big long ship flying in the air. Hikaru is surprised and unconsciously let out a word, “what is that?”
Roberto who looks at the ship then explains to him. “Aah, that’s the black zeppelin. It’s one of a few ways to reach Magora. It’s cheaper, only takes around 300 golds but it takes 1 hour to arrive. In return, you can see quite a view from up there.”

When Hikaru and Kongou hear that, the both of them seemed like a child who’s seeing a brand new toy in front of the store. In their face we can clearly see it’s written that they want to get aboard the black zeppelin.

After a couple of minutes walking they finally arrived at Roberto guild’s base. The building is not too big but seemed to have 3 levels. When they come inside, they can see that the hall is decorated in blue. There are shelves filled with chinaware display.

When they go in deeper, they enter the kitchen. The kitchen is shining bright and a lot of knife and kitchen utensils hanging at the wall. Hikaru and Kongou, both walk inside with their mouth wide open. Seeing that Leona can only stares at them seeing how childish they are.

“Come on in, sits at the table. I will prepare some food for you guys.” Roberto said that and then he starts to wear his apron and starts cooking.

“Hey, isn’t it Roberto? You came back already?” a fat man appears entering the kitchen. He is wearing an armor that looks like it’s about to explode. He wears glasses and carrying some snack in his arm.

“Oh, it’s you Shibo. I’m about to cook something for our guest there. You can eat too if you wants.” Roberto takes a quick look at him and returns cooking.

The fat man then sits down at the dining table and tries to introduce himself to the party. “Leona already knows me but both of you probably didn’t know. My name is Shibo; I’m one of Blue Rose member. Pleased to meet you.”

Seeing that, Kongou and Hikaru then bow and introduce themselves. “My name is Hikaru. Pleased to meet you.”

“My name is Kongou. Pleased to meet you too. By the way are you by any chance an advanced class already?”

Shibo then tries to correct his glasses and shyly replied. “Yes I am.”

“He may not look like it, but when he battles he’s very crazy. He’s a very famous crusader known as the unmovable wall.” A lady enters the room. Her long black hair almost touches the floor. On her back, we can see a bow and quiver of arrow. “Pardon the intrusion. My name is Akane. I’m a hunter.” After that, she also sits down at the table.

“Whoa, amazing. Just how many advanced player is in this guild?” Hikaru is amazed to see so many advanced player gathered.
“There are 5 players, but the other two are offline right now. May be we can introduce you to them another time. They are Kenta, an assassin and Marianne a cleric.” Explain Roberto while stills cooking.

“Are you guys hunting together?” Kongou asked them.

“We are usually hunting together. But now, we rarely go out to the field.” Said Akane.

“And why is that?” Hikaru is interested in the reason. But as soon as he asks that you can see the changing of expression at Shibo and Akane face.

Silent fills the room until Leona finally opens her mouth. “Do you guys know about the monthly event? They have done it 3 times.”

Both of Kongou and Hikaru nod at the same time. Seeing that Leona continuing her story.

“Last month’s mission is to collect a cactus flower from the great cactus tree at desert storm field. And Blue Rose guild consists of few players that reach advanced class faster than anybody else. But some players think that they are cheating. Their blocking them so they can’t go out of the city.”

“But blocking them is not that bad isn’t it? You can report those players to GM.” Hikaru asks to Leona.

“Yes, they report it to the GM, but that day because of the events, the GM arrives at the scene a couple of minutes later. In that few minutes, those player are cursing them, saying that they are a cheater, and all kind of things. There are some people who can withstand those kinds of things, but not Marianne.” Leona continues.

Akane then continues the story. Maybe she thinks that it’s better for them to hear it directly from the guild member. “She was a shy girl at first, even when we team up at first she’s a bit closed. But as times goes on we know that she was a very good girl. But, that kind of things is just too hard for her. Maybe in the real world she get’s bullied a lot, but we didn’t dare to ask her. Since then she rarely shows up. Even when she shows up, she never want to go out from this building. We also understand her opinion; after all we’re on the same boat. We don’t want to find a replacement for her. That’s why we’re just keeping believing that she will return to hunt together with us someday. At our level, hunting without a healer is impossible.”

Roberto suddenly cuts in and setting up the food and sits down at the table. “Okay, enough with the gloomy story. Let’s eat.”

They then grab some food from the table and starts eating.

“Whoa.. iv’s even vever vhan vhe one in vinving vovhin.” Hikaru talks with his mouth full makes the people laugh.
“What are you doing, Hikaru. You’re making me embarrassed.” Kongou said while shoves at Hikaru.

“I know, but it is really good.” Hikaru gulped down the food in his mouth and talked normally. They then finished the meal without leaving anything behind. After that, Hikaru remember something that crosses his mind. “Speaking of the monthly event quest, is that even at the festival is a monthly quest?”

“No, it’s just a special event quest. The monthly quest is harder to accomplish and the reward is a unique item.” Leona tries to explain to them.

“So, what are the unique items so far? And who’s the winner?” Kongou asked.

Akane then suddenly shows some serious face and starts talking. “Let me tell you something interesting. Those monthly events are completed three times in a row by the same player. The first monthly event is to kill a level 62 black dragon. It makes reason that they want to appreciate the people who’s trying their best leveling. But even reach level 50 in a month is a hard thing to do. Even us, didn’t even get the chance to reach the black dragon nest. We’re only around level 40 at that time and we always get killed at the great stone range by a level 55 golem. We ended up giving up on the quest. Nearing the end of the month, we see something that shocked us. The quest has been completed and the reward is ring of endurance. The ring of endurance has an effect of enabling the player to withstand deadly blow. Even if their health bar only shows 10 left and they are attacked by 50 attack point, he or she won’t be killed, they will still have 1 hit points remaining.”

“Whoa, that is really a unique item. I mean, you can tank a monster using that item. Just let them hit you, and then use a potion. Just let them hit you again and use a potion again.” Hikaru is imagining himself withstanding a dragon attack again and again.

“Idiot... Do you think you can do that? Imagine yourself blown away by an enemy attack. You won’t have time to drink the potion. Even if you’re healed by a skill, it has cool down. And if you are attacked by a lot of monster at once, it’s not really that useful.” Leona explains to him using mean word.

“Yeah, it’s certainly unique but not that useful.” Kongou join the conversation after thinking for a while.

“I guess, they don’t want to create an item that will destroy the balance of the system. After all, RO is known as the most balanced game right now.” Roberto gives his comments too.

“Yeah, speaking of which, the second monthly events are one of the craziest. We have to find a red angered rat. Maybe the staff hear out our complains about the first event and tries to held one where everybody can participate.” Shibo explained.

“What? A red angered rats? The one at the sewer dungeon?” Hikaru looked surprised.

“Yeah, you have hunted them too right? Leona has told me the story. For that event the sewer dungeon is filled with thousand of players and millions of angered rats. But, it’s too hard to
find one red angered rat among that many. And for player at our level, we already reach 45 at that time; even our slightest attack may kill the red angered rats, so we’re patiently withstanding their bite while examining them. But after all of that we’re giving up once again.” Roberto explained.

Akane then shivers and says: “I don’t want to remember that feeling, that nasty feeling of many small animals roaming all over your body. I’m still traumatized by that.”

Shibo also replied. “Yeah, that’s one of the worst, they keep biting me.”

“Then who’s the one that complete the quest?” Kongou ask to them.

“Don’t you remember what I just said; it is completed by the same person. A couple of days later the quest has been completed. The reward is necklace of obedience. The necklace of obedience allows the user to teleport to their re-spawn point once a day, no matter where they are with 0 cast time.” Akane who seemed to have calmed down continue to talks.

“That item seemed to be meaningless, don’t you guys think?” Kongou and Hikaru nods at Akane. “But here’s the deal. The higher our level is, the harder monster that we need to kill. If we want to escape from a battle we can use the fairy’s wing item. Although it’s expensive it is really useful. But even that item have 10 seconds of casting time. The necklace of obedience allows us to escape grave danger of dying in the field.”

“But, dying in the field only cost you 1% exp and gold penalty right?” Hikaru try to confirm the fact.

“Yes it’s only 1% of exp, so we keep thinking again that it’s useless.” Shibo said.

Roberto then tells about the third event: “the third event is to collect a cactus flower from the great cactus tree at desserts storm field, although we didn’t participate because of the incident. It seemed easy at first, but in reality it is hard to see in the dessert, especially if there is a sand storm. Thousand of players explore the dessert storm field. It’s a pretty high level area; level 45 armored scorpion monsters appeared there. Some of the players just ignore the monster and retries again if they died. After all, the mission is to find the flower. We didn’t know how he managed to completes it, but it’s already finished by the next day we log in. The reward is mantle of regeneration. It doubles your regeneration rate and allows you to regenerate in the battle.”

“Isn’t there a crusader skill that allows the same thing? It’s not doubled but it allows regeneration at battle isn’t it? So, isn’t that another useless item?” Kongou asked. But it seems like suddenly Leona realized something: “if that item is combined with two previous items, the player who earned that can easily survives any battle.”

“Yes, indeed we try to analyze the situation. After all, it is owned by the same player. But if we think about it, Player HP and MP will be generated for 5% every 20 second when the player is out of battle, so even if he managed to withstand and attack, he still have to dodge
for another 10 seconds. If he wants to escape, he can always use the necklace of obedience. So we think that, it’s another useless item.” Roberto explained.

“Hmm... I don’t get it. Why did the prize of the quest isn’t appealing. They don’t have like +100 attributes, or unblock able attacks?” Hikaru muttered to himself.

“The game will be unbalanced then.” said Leona who calmly analyzed the situation.

“Yeah, indeed it is true. We’re thinking that it’s not that useful and not interesting so we’re just giving up at the quest. On the other hand, if a monthly quest item reward is too powerful, player may stop wanting to play if they can’t acquire any. But, hearing that all three of them were collected by the same person makes me want to beat him.” Akane said that with a fire in her eyes.

“By the way, who is this person that completes this entire quest? You guys didn’t even mention it once.” Hikaru asked to them about the player identity.

“Hmm... we don’t really know about this guy. When we asked a NPC, they won’t let us know his level. But he’s probably the one on the 80-90 level range. We’re trying to ask a GM whether he’s a real player or just some staff made up character, they said that he’s a real player and playing fair. You know, hearing all of that make our blood boils. We’re all defeated by a player that nobody even knows, three times in a row. We just know that his name is Kuro.” when Akane finished his sentence and mention the name; the three of them opens their mouth wide as if their jaw falls to the ground.

“Really?” the three of them ask simultaneously. Seeing their reaction Shibo asked them: “do you know him?”

The three of them then explains the event that they have few days ago.

“Hahaha. So there is a man like him.” Roberto laughs hearing their story.

“Hmm... I don’t think he really use that item though.” Hikaru gives them his opinion.

“I wonder when is the next monthly event will be announced.” Kongou said while looking at the ceiling.

“For next month event, we already know the rewards item. It’s the circlet of midnight. It will block enemy skill once every 10 minutes. Even though we don’t know what the quest is, but we know that it will be held in two more days at Amber village.” Shibo tells them.

“Huh... Another useless item.” Leona mocks the reward for the quest.

But then Akane said with a high spirit: “that is not true; indeed it is not too useful. But it’s getting better. Also I won’t let that person wins this event again. After all we’re sick seeing his name appears at every monthly quest window. And judging from your story, maybe a lot of player who hates him because of that incident will gather.”
“By the way, Hikaru, Kongou, would you like to join our guild? After all Leona is one of our members too.” Roberto asks them.

“I don’t have any problem with that; with this we will have a lot of friends too.” Hikaru replied to Roberto offer.

“If you’re in, then I’m in.” Kongou also joins the Blue Rose guild along with Hikaru.

Seeing that they have two more members, Akane morale goes up. “Okay then, with this we’re going to participate in the monthly event. All of you can come right?”

“Sure...” all of them answer together.

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Two days after that, Hikaru, Kongou, Leona, Roberto, Shibo, and Akane are all gathered at Amber Village. Amber village also called as the silent village. It is the only place in the RO that have no NPC. The village only consists of empty building that looks like if it is haunted. But that day, more and more players are gathered at there. Because today, it is the place that will be used for the monthly event. A few moments later, a sound can be heard talking using a microphone.

“Hello everybody. Welcome to our monthly events. My name is Genki and I will be the GM in charge today.” You won’t mistake him for anyone else his tan skin and red spiky hair is easily recognizable. He never wears anything else other than black sunglasses, short pants, and Hawaiian shirt. “Wow, I can see a lot of familiar faces from the festival the other day. You all came to the right place.” The crowds are cheering hearing that.

“Because, the enemy of man, Kuro is present today.”

The crowds start to go crazy remembering how he threatened them at the festival a few days ago.

“But let me explain some things first. You all may know, every monthly event doesn’t give a reward that is appealing for some of you guys. It is designed that way to keep the balance of the game. And the events also held to test the limit of the player. Other than that we want it to keep the player entertained. But for three times in a row, the entire quest is completed by one person, Kuro. Don’t you guys feel irritated?”

“Yeah...” The crowds then go wild. You can sense anger and their killing intent.

“Hold your horses everyone. I know the reward is not that big, but it may hurt your pride that every month it has been completed by this person. As a staff that understands your feelings, your wish has been granted. The theme for today monthly quest is “the last man standing”.” Genki announced with full of energy.

Hearing that name the crowds grow wilder and start to chant the same words, kill him, kill him, and kill him. Akane too seems to be anticipating this.
“Starting from now, no player can warp in and out to and from this village. You can’t even walk here from Memoria city. This place is completely sealed, so no one can run away especially Kuro. The rules are simple, just kill anyone and be the last player alive. If you’re in a party, the party may decide who will be the winner from their member. If you died, you’ll automatically re-spawn at your re-spawn point. That means you have been eliminated and loses the event. So, are you guys ready?”

“Yeah...” you can see their motivation and who’s their target. But it is hard to find him among this many people.

“As a bonus, I will tell you where is Kuro now. He’s standing right there.” Genki then points to the top of a building. When all the players look there, we can see a man standing dressed in all black looking down at them. He calmly observes as the crowds start to pull out their weapon. We hardly recognized him as the same Kuro in the festival because his face is covered in mask, but seeing at his stares, you’ll know if he’s the same person.

“Are you ready guys? Its starting in 5, 4,3,2,1. Go!” after Genki finishes his countdown, all of the players instantly aiming for Kuro. But it is a royal rumble after all, there are battle scattered at every corner of the village too. The Blue Rose guild member different than the other player, decide to hide in a building first.

“Why are you dragging me here Roberto, I want to shoot his head.” Akane who’s dragged by Roberto complains.

“Cool your head first, if you go out there right now, you may be killed by others.” Roberto said. And the other member too agrees by nodding their head.

“Our enemy isn’t just him. I see Dimitry and Calvin among the crowd.” Shibo said that which surprises Akane. “Dimitry and Calvin?” Akane ask once again to confirm.

“Who are Dimitry and Calvin?” Hikaru who doesn’t know about them seemed to be confused.

“They are one of our friends a long time ago. They also already reach advanced class like us. But after a few investigations, Kenta found out that they are the mastermind of the incident at the third monthly quest.” Roberto explained with some anger in his tone.

“Impossible. Aren’t they your friends?” Kongou asked them in disbelieves.

“They are our friends, once. Now, I don’t even want to remember their names.” Said Akane who’s starting to calm down but we can see his anger.

“Let’s just hide for now, we can go out and examine the condition later.” Leona said that calmly.

Meanwhile, most of the crowds are aiming at Kuro. He then jumps from the roof and lands in the middle of the crowds. Looks like he attacks a player and makes him vanished into dust. Seeing that he killed one of the players, the rest of them are enraged. But after that, Kuro just
dodge the whole time. Most of the player who tries to attack him ended up attacking another player. Not long after that it becomes a free for all battle. They don’t even care about Kuro anymore who’s now hiding in one of the building.

As time passed by, from thousands of player who gathered, only dozens of people remains. Indeed this is what we called strong players that have been enduring the battle field. But seeing that, Kuro then comes out from his hiding place then quickly eliminates all of the remaining player one by one. He’s moving very quickly and the numbers of surviving people keep reducing. Seeing Kuro in action Akane the tries to go out from the building but is held back by Roberto. “What are you doing Roberto?”

“See the situation. Can’t you tell that he is stronger than us? He is killing those players swiftly in one attack. I can’t even see his weapon.” Roberto asks her to calm down while explaining his reason.

Shibo who’s been watching Kuro in action finally speaks:”it’s impossible; he’s even killing a crusader just now in one attack. I know that crusader, Billy the iron wall. His defense is strong, but he easily defeated him.”

“Really?” Kongou surprised to hear that.

Hikaru never let his eyes go from Kuro. He follows his every movement. He’s looking at him in admiration. Leona who’s been silent for the whole time is watching Kuro too, but with a different look in her eyes. It seems like she has fallen for him. Seeing the expression in his sister eyes, Roberto then exploded and charging outside at Kuro alone.

Roberto pulls out a yanagiba from his bag and tries to attack Kuro. Yanagiba is a long chef knife used for cutting sashimi. Seeing that, Shibo and Akane also comes out to help him.

Kuro, easily dodged Roberto’s attack and when he goes past him, Roberto is scattered into glowing dust. Akane and Shibo are shocked seeing that, but it’s already too late to go back. Shibo then decided to use a crusader skill, taunt.

*Taunt* is a skill that provokes the enemy within 1000 AOE to target the user. Within the time duration the enemy who is affected by this skill has to attack the user. The user defense also increased during the duration.

Shibo thinks that by forcing Kuro to attack him will give time for Akane to make a shot. But his calculation is wrong. While Akane tries to take out her arrow, Shibo already defeated. Kuro then move towards Akane direction and then land a blow. She is also been defeated in a flash.

Hikaru, Kongou, and Leona can’t move after seeing what just happened before their eyes. It’s too dangerous to come out now. But the numbers of player that survived already reduces to ten. It can be seen from the quest window which is now 10/38,830.

Seeing that, Dimitry and his party suddenly comes out from their hiding place. “We meet again, Kuro. I think we still have some unfinished business.”
“I don’t remember you. Maybe you have the wrong person.” Kuro said calmly.

“Yooouu...” Calvin tries to attack him but stopped by Dimitry. “Don’t get provoked by him. We’ve trained for this remember?” hearing from their words, it seemed like they already prepare a special plan to defeat Kuro. Dimitry then give signal to his men and they are pulling out their weapon.

His party consisted of Calvin, a lancer; Carla, a druid; Hawke, a hunter; Mike, a monk; Baron, a rogue; and Dimitry himself is a knight. The party seemed to be experienced in combat and has prepared for this battle.

“Carla, start casting your ensnare. Calvin, prepare to thrust your spear. Hawke, try to attack his leg to reduce his movement speed. Mike, you’re going to hold him while Carla is casting her skill. Baron, try to use disarm on him when you see the chance.” Dimitry is giving command fluently while the party starts to make a formation.

Dimitry stands in the front as a guard followed by Mike and Baron behind. On the back we have Calvin in the left, Carla in the middle, and Hawke in the right. “Don’t you get too cocky for having high level? We’re going to kill you.” Shouts Calvin.

Seeing their formation and how well prepared they are, Kuro isn’t afraid. He even provokes them to come by waving his index finger. Seeing that, Dimitry then let out a shout. “Kill him.” Kuro isn’t moving from his place, he’s waiting for Carla to finish her cast. When he sees that Carla is going to finish her chant, then Kuro suddenly leap forward towards Dimitry.

Being a caster class require a lot of concentration. You have to focuses when you cast your spell and measure the distance from the target. If you miscalculate, your spell won’t hit. By moving forward towards Dimitry, Kuro managed to hide from Carla view behind Dimitry. Make her panicked because her target is gone. She then releases her spell and it hits Dimitry instead.

The spell that hits Dimitry was ensnare. Ensnare is a skill form druid class which holds every target using roots that grow from the ground within 500 AOE and rendering them to move.

Seeing that Kuro is moving towards him and he’s been hit by his teammate skill, Dimitry then unleash a skill, earth stomp.

Earth stomp is an advanced skill of a knight class, which allows them to create a shockwave by hitting their broadsword into the ground. It has 800 AOE and will flinches enemy for 2 seconds within the area.

But seeing that Dimitry about to bury his broadsword to the ground Kuro immediately jump back, evading the skill that was unleashed. Seeing that chance, Mike tries to attack Kuro using his claws. But he easily dodged it. Mike then unleash chain of skills to keep Kuro busy. After that, Baron comes forward and helps Mike attacking Kuro. But Kuro has been doing nothing the whole time, he is just dodging their attack. Seeing that, Calvin suddenly says to his teammate. “Check your health bar.”
Calvin is afraid that Kuro is just waiting for his poison to take place. After all in his first battle against him, Kuro is just dodging the whole time until Calvin is run out of HP. Baron and Mike then stops for a while to check out their health.

“Hahaha... it seems like you learned something.” Kuro let out an evil laugh and then give Calvin a mocking gaze.

“You...” finally Calvin is provoked and then moves forward to attack Kuro. “No.” Dimitry tries to stop him but he is still trapped in ensnare.

Calvin thrust his spear forward backed up by Mike and Baron to follow up after his attack. This three player chain attack is moving fluidly. They’re giving no time to rest for Kuro.

While the battle is going on outside, the three remaining member of Blue Rose guild can only watch the scene and do nothing. They realized even if they go out, they will probably get killed instantly.

“Ugh... I’m surprised to see the difference of our skill and them.” Kongou said to Hikaru with a depressed looks.

“Yeah, I don’t believe that their battle is on a whole different level from us. But, who do you think will win?” Hikaru replied to Kongou.

“Kuro is cornered because he is alone, and Dimitry party still has full health seeing that Kuro is only dodging the whole time. Their number also is an advantage I think.” Kongou telling Hikaru about his thought.

“Humph... you both are really stupid. Of course Kuro is going to win. He hasn’t pulled out his weapon yet isn’t he?” Leona who’s didn’t even blink while seeing Kuro says her opinion.

Dimitry who’s finally released from ensnare comes forward to helps surround Kuro. Hawke also try to find a chance to release his arrow. While Carla is prepare to heal her teammates. Dimitry and his party keep pressuring Kuro.

Kuro then got tired of dodging and finally decided to pull out his weapon. He took out a Katar. He’s been hiding it atop of his arm by holding it backwards. This way, it explains the ability of Kuro to block attack that seemed to be blocked by his fist.

Katar is a weapon with triangle shaped blade and its unique h-shaped horizontal hand grip resulting in the blade to sits above the user knuckles. It is indeed similar to a claw that Mike use. By drawing out his weapon it means that finally Kuro decided to launch an attack.

He blocks mike claw using his right hand and stab him using his left hand. Causing mike to fall into the ground and vanished into thin air. He quickly pulls his left hand and blocks baron dagger. His right hand that is now free after blocking mike claw, he use it to parry Calvin spear which nearly grazed his neck. Seeing that both his hand are full, Dimitry come forward and try to slash him; but Kuro shakes off baron dagger, Calvin spear and then leap forward toward Dimitry. Dimitry then slashes his broadsword vertically to split Kuro body into two.
Seeing Dimitry attacks, Kuro tries to dodge by spinning his body while jumping forward. Seeing that he managed to dodge from Dimitry attacks, he moves towards Carla and Hawke. Kuro then slashes Hawke legs using his right hand and stabbed Carla in the stomach using his left. Carla who’s stabbed by Kuro immediately scattered into dust. After that, he turn his body and finished Hawke who’s stumbled earlier because his attack.

Dimitry who saw three of his teammates killed instantly is shocked. He just stands there, seeing Baron and Calvin rushed towards Kuro. Kuro then dodged Calvin spear by turning his body towards Calvin right side while moving forward and then stabbed his neck using his right hand. He then blocks Baron’s dagger and then stabbed his stomach.

Dimitry’s then snapped seeing his party destroyed in a matter of seconds. “It’s just because you have high level, that you are this strong. Don’t think that I’m surrendering to you.” He then charges forward, using all of his strength to swing his broadsword. But then Kuro didn’t move from his place, he’s waiting Dimitry to attack.

Dimitry slashes vertically using all his strength and focusing his weight onto the tip of his broadsword. But Kuro stop his attacks completely by crossing the katar above his head.

“It’s not because of my high level that I’m strong. Because I’m strong I have this high level.” Kuro saying that to Dimitry with a killer gaze. Dimitry is like a frog in front of a snake. Kuro then moves forward towards Dimitry while still blocking his broadsword. He’s then using an assassin advanced skills, the \textit{cross slash}. He slashes Dimitry in his torso leaving an X mark behind as Dimitry body starts turning to dust.

\textit{Cross slash} is an assassin advanced skills. This skill is activated by crossing the katar in an x shape and then unleashes a two slash. This skill doubles the power of the attack.

Hikaru, Kongou, and Leona who saw that battle are speechless. They can’t say any word. They can’t even move. That terrific move from Kuro makes them too scared to go out. But then a death sentence comes out from Kuro mouth: “I know you’re there. Come out from that building.”

The boys are trembling in fear, but Leona seemed fine. She takes a deep breath and then come out from the building. Seeing that, Hikaru and Kongou followed behind. “I’m sorry, we didn’t mean to wait until you’re tired and then try to attack you.” Leona said with a little fear in her tone.

“Yeah, our level is just too low for this kind of thing.” Kongou tried to think up of some excuse.

But hearing that, Kuro seems to be annoyed. “If there is something to be blamed it’s not your level. It’s your will to move forward.”

Kongou who hear that then starts to shiver. Hikaru then ask for forgiveness. “We’re truly sorry Mr. Kuro. Can you let us go?”

“Yes, I will kill you all in a blink of an eye. It won’t hurt, I promise.” Kuro said.
Just when he’s about to attack Kongou and Hikaru, Leona shout something that the boys won’t believe. “Ku-Kuro-sama. Please be my boyfriend.” She said that with her eyes sparkling and then bowing down.

She must be crazy. That’s what Hikaru and Kongou is thinking. A few moments latter surprisingly Kuro laughed and says: “hahahahaha... I’ll kill you if you ever said that again.”

After that, Hikaru, Kongou, and Leona didn’t know what happened to them. When they opened their eyes, they are at the Blue Rose re-spawn point. Roberto, Akane, and Shibo are waiting for them to explain of what just happened.

“Hikaru, Kongou, what happened to Leona? She’s been spacing out with her eyes sparkling the whole time.” Roberto asks them in panic. When he is seeing her sister reaction.

“She just confessed to Mr. Kuro. Asking him to be her boyfriend.” Hikaru explain to Roberto of what just happened.

“Uaah... impossible...” hears that, Roberto is shocked and depressed. “How can my beloved sister take a liking to guy like him?”

After that their quest window gets updated. Say that the monthly event quest has been completed. By none other than Kuro.

****

‘Welcome back Kuro-sama.’ Sakuya seems like have been waiting for her the whole time. “How the event quest this month goes?”

“It’s a good thing that I ask you to stay. It’s a free for all battle.” Kuro explained to her of what just happened. “Oh, I forget about something. Here, take this.” He said that while tossing the circlet that he just won.

“Is it okay for me to receive this? After all you’re the one that’s been working hard Kuro-sama.” Sakuya ask to him.

“It’s useless for me anyway. Do you cook something while I’m away?” Kuro said that with no expression and start walking towards the kitchen.

“Yes, Kuro-sama. I’ll re-heat it for you.” Sakuya then followed him behind.
Epilogue

In the basement of FFAID Corporation building, Dr. Hans is watching a monitor. It seemed like a recording of a scene.

“...and starting from now, you’ll be in my party.” We can see a boy, looks like he took a thief basic class. He seemed so cheerfully greeting a girl that will be his teammates.

“Pleased to meet you, my name is...” the girl replied with no expression in her tone.

Dr. Hans seemed to be examining it seriously while taking some notes.

“So, is this how they first met?” suddenly a man in a suit show up. His age is around forty but his posture is still straight up. His hair is neatly styled and wears fashionable glasses.

“Yes it is. But I didn’t expect to see the result in only three months. It’s faster than what we predicted. I’m now collecting some data from the records.” Dr. Hans said all of that while still looking at the monitor carefully.

“Then, I’m looking forward to see some results within a week then? Is it possible?” the man asking in curiosity.

“If that is what you want, I’m going to initiate the first phase then. Do i have your permission sir?” Dr. Hans is asking politely.

“Do as you wish.” The man in suit then turns his body and shows an evil grin on his face.
Hello everybody. I can’t believe that I finally finished my first book. I’m doing this as a hobby at start. My English also isn’t that good and maybe you guys sometimes found that my words are confusing. I’m sorry for that.

I really love MMORPG. Starting from .hack, Sword art online, Log horizon, Yureka, ½ prince, and many more. If you can see that my novel is influenced from all those title. So if you can see some parts that are similar with those titles, I’m so sorry. I’m not trying to copy their works. I’m just writing and putting up my idea of how do I want my game to be. But it’s hard thinking up some plot to make it interesting. No over powered characters, no special power that defies the system, no in game death or trapped in the game world.

I tried to make it realistic, yet i put up some of my fantasy. What do you guys think? A game that is too good to be true. Because all of the game that I played right now is a little bit boring. At some points you have to spent money to be better than other player. Or you have to spend a huge amount of time to level up. Come on game maker, we just want to play for fun, making communities and have some adventure.

I remembered playing Ragnarok Online as my first MMORPG. I lost my mind there. I spent a lot of time just chatting with my friends. Hunting some MVP and collecting rare item. I wish I found one game that looks like that in this era.

The next part is the extra chapter. I’m trying to explain to you guys how this system works. It may be boring for some of you, but good games always have a strong basic right? In the next book extra chapter maybe I will tell you about each class specific skills and ability. Maybe monster list too.

The next arc is going to be great and big. Some background story of the character and an unimaginable development is going to take place. Just wait for my upcoming novel. Hahaha... That is possible if I can finish it and have the time to write though.

As you can see this novel doesn’t have any illustration, picture, or whatsoever. So, I’m looking for someone to be my illustrator, editor, or even my publisher. I really appreciate if you can do that. Maybe get my novel some anime or a figurine? Hahaha.... but I won’t put my hope too high.

Anyway if you’re interested in helping me, you can contact me trough my email: ryan_darmawan@hotmail.com and thank you for spending your time reading my novel. If you have any question, review, or comments make sure to drop me an email too... Thank you...

Best regards,

Ryan Darmawan...
A. Starting up guide.

What’s in the box?

The box contain of 1 synapse reader, 1 synapse imaging device, 1 network cable, and 1 power chord.

What is the synapse reader and synapse imaging device?

Synapse reader or often called Syder is a device that designed to read the information from the human brain and sending signal to the human brain. Human five senses, touch, sight, hearing, taste, smell even human sense of temperature, pain, balance, time, and kinesthetic is controlled by the brain. This starts when a neuron receives an impulse and the neuron transmitted it to the brain. The neuron transmitted it in a form of electricity trough a connective tissue named synapse which connects one neuron to the other neuron. When this electricity processed in the brain, it is often considered as a brain wave. Syder works as a reader of this electric impulse or brain wave. Syder then analyze the impulse which includes information about what human see, hear, taste, smell, and touch. Syder have 10000 electric sensors that work as an alternative synapse which makes it possible for the human brain to channel the impulse that they receive to the Syder. This is resulting in the ability of the Syder to read the brain waves. So Syder makes it possible for us to read and send images to the brain of the virtual world trough these electric sensors. Because of the high level of detail needed in making the Syder, each Syder needs about 12 hours of production and 30 hours of test run.
Synapse Imaging Device or SID for short is a replica of the human brain. Instead of made from thousands neuron cells, they consist of thousands mini processors. This processor then creates what we called as a “fake” electric impulse. This fake electric impulse consisting information of the virtual world. It re-creates the electric impulse of the human senses which is resulting in the ability to create the virtual reality. Both of the Syder and the SID is created by Dr. Hans Schneider.

Startup guide.

To activate the Syder and the SID you have to do several steps.

Firstly, connects the power chord to electrical power source and then connect it to the back of the SID.

Secondly, connects the network cable to the back of the SID, below the power plug.

Thirdly, put the Syder in your head and find a relaxed position (lying down is recommended).

The last step is turn on the power button on the SID and then close your eyes.

Welcome to the world of Rebirth Online.

B. Rebirth Online Introduction.

Rebirth Online or often called RO is a game made by FFAID Corporation to maximize the player experience in the virtual worlds. It is the only exclusive corporation that is allowed to implement Syder in a VRMMORPG (Virtual Reality Massive Multiplayer Online Role Playing Game). RO is using the medieval times background as the settings. Resulting in a fantasy yet classical design of the world.

RO worlds run on a system called “The Core”. This system allowed us to create a vast virtual world more efficient than any other system. Which is resulting in almost no loading time. To complete the player experience, RO is equipped with the latest Artificial Intelligence or AI system for all of the Non-Player Character or NPC. This system is called “The Network”. Our NPC mind is connected to the database through a special network. Resulting in the ability of the NPC to answer the entire player question about the game. To make it realistic, our NPC voice is generated through a special vocaloid device. It is to ensure the player that their experience in the RO will be something that they will never forget.

C. Basic and Advanced Class.

In RO we have 6 basic classes and 22 advanced class implemented. The six basic classes are swordsman, fighter, archer, thief, caster, and commoner. The twenty two advanced classes are samurai, knights, crusader, lancer, monk, berserker, hunter, ranger, assassin, rogue, shinobi, wizard, summoner, cleric, druid, shaman, bard, dancer, chef, crafter, blacksmith, and merchant. You have to choose one of the six basic classes when you first login to the RO. The 22 advanced class can only be upgraded when the player have reach level 50. Each advanced class has basic class requirements, so a player that’s taking the swordsman as the
basic class can’t upgrade as a wizard for the second class. The advanced class and the respective basic class will be explained further below.

To change into advanced class, players have to go to the advanced class headquarters and filling out the application form. After that, players have to complete the quest based on the advanced class. If a player successfully finished the quest, they will be upgraded as advanced class.

Swordsman advanced class is samurai, knights, crusader, and lancer.

Fighter advanced class is monk and berserker.

Archer advanced class is hunter and ranger.

Thief advanced class is assassin, rogue, and shinobi.

Caster advanced class is wizard, summoner, cleric, druid, and shaman. The caster class is categorized into two types, offensive caster and supportive caster. Offensive caster advanced class is wizard and summoner. Supportive caster advanced class is cleric, druid, and shaman.

Commoner advanced class is bard, dancer, chef, crafter, blacksmith, and merchant.

Swordsman class as the name implies is a basic sword using class, they can turn into samurai, knight, crusader, lancer, or master swordsman. They can equip a wide range of armor from light to heavy. Their skills have a medium cool down and attack power.

Samurai is a unique class that is using katana as their main weapon. Their physical attack is the highest in swordsman class but they have the lowest defense. Their skills also have long time cool down duration because they are powerful.

Knight is a two handed broadsword user. Their attack power is high, and they can defense well with their broadsword. The disadvantage of this class is their skill need a long time to cast and their attack is a little bit slow because of the size of the broadsword.

Crusader is a swordsman that focused as the tank of the group. Their high defense resulting in low attacking power, the weapon they used is one handed sword and one handed shield, or they can devote themselves into a two handed big shield user. Their skill mainly focused on defending the party and taunting the enemy to target them.

Lancer is a swordsman that focusing on mastering the spear. The spear gave them more range than a sword can do and their damage is on par with a knight, they are also more agile than knight. But they have a low defense since a spear is not a defending tool. Their skill mainly focused on attacking the enemy.

Fighter class is a class that focusing on hand to hand combats. They don’t have a high attack but their speed is amazing. They have chain attack which is the best thing about fighter class. Giving no room for the enemy to rest. It’s like saying that offence is the best defense.
Monk is an advanced class of a fighter. They used claws as their main weapon and have devastating combo. But their defense is low and can only equip light armor. Their skill named the fist of heaven is one of the most powerful skills in the game.

Berserker is a advanced class of a fighter which mainly using axes as their weapon. They have low defense but high attacking power. Their skill named berserker blood giving them more attack power based on the health they have. The less health they have, more power they get.

Archer is a basic class that uses bow as their weapon. Archer class isn’t really popular because of the high difficulty in using the bow. Either way, it has a high damage and speed, but low on defense. Their skill keen eyes, allows them to detect enemy before the enemy detects them. This is useful on the battle field.

Hunter is advanced class of archer. Their weapon is longbow which give them more power but reducing their attack speed. Hunter classes can take a hawk as their companion and will help them in battle according to the level of the hunter.

Ranger is advance class of archer. Their weapon short bow gives them less power but more attack speed. Ranger can take a wolf as their companion and have a better chance to inflict critical chance.

Thief is a basic class which uses dagger or short sword as their weapon. Their mobility is the best amongst any other classes and has a pick pocket skill to steal gold from other player.

Assassin is one of the damage dealers of the game. Their weapon is katar, a similar weapon to claws. And can infused poison to their attack which makes them deadly. Their high attack power and speed makes them powerful. But their lack of defense can be vital sometimes.

Rogue is mainly focusing in disabling enemies. They can disable enemy from using weapon and lower their defense by cracking their armor. But the main attractive point of this class is their skill to have better chance in getting gold and rare item.

Shinobi is a class that uses short sword and throwing weapons. They can use kunai, shuriken, even daggers and throws them. Their hiding and sneaking skill is one of the best in the game. It can be used to get past the monster in the field.

Caster is a basic class of many damage dealer and supporter in the game. This class is then divided into two, offensive type caster and then supportive style caster. As a caster you will be thought on how to use skill, how to target your skill, and how to cast your skill. This class is not easy to master as you have to have a good perspective in measuring the distance of where the skill will land.

Wizard is an advanced class of a caster which has the highest attack in their skill. But their skills aren’t many that are target locking. So you have to make sure that your skill landed at the enemy or it will be hurting your friends instead.
Summoner is one of the easiest class to master. Because their skill primary in summoning monster to help you and your party battle in the field. The familiar summoned can freely attack with your commands.

Cleric is a support class that mainly focused on healing teammates and giving a buff. They can increase their attack and attributes. Due to their low defense they have a skill know as barrier to protect themselves. Although it's seems useful they needed more mana than any other class.

Druid is a support class that can heal teammates and inflicting status to the enemy. Although their healing skill is not powerful as cleric, they have many useful skills. One of their skill, ensnare can hold an enemy at their places which makes it easier for teammates to attack it.

Shaman is full support caster that is mainly inflicting bad status at the enemy. From reducing their agility, put them to sleep, until taking away their sight. This class doesn’t seem to be powerful but their skill is pretty much useful.

Commoner is the basic class that doesn’t have any special rule. They can use wide range of weapon, and can equip a wide range of armor. Medium attack, medium speed, and medium defense, if you have to describe, it is jack of all trades.

Bard is an advanced class from commoner. They can buff the party with their supporting skill which usually can last for a long time. Their skill can be better if they’re using combo skill with a dancer.

Dancer is advanced class from commoner. Not many people using this class as their skill usually focusing on dancing. Their dance said can brings good luck and many status improvements for teammates. They can use combo skill with a bard which improves their duration and effect.

Chef is advanced class from commoner. Many people think that this class is useless but they have a high fire resistance, knife mastery, and their best traits are ingredients seeker. They can improve the drop rate of rare item double than usual, if the item is ingredients for cooking. The food that they cooks have attributes buff for the people who eats it.

Crafter is a class that specialized in light and medium armor and weapon. This is a famous class because the equipment they make has higher defense and attributes than the one that you buy at an NPC. They can make a fortune buy crafting armor and weapon.

Blacksmith focused on crafting heavy armor and weapon. They’re a little bit combat oriented than crafter. They have a powerful bash skill using their hammer that can stun enemy for a few seconds. They also have a high fire resistance because they need to work with fire.

Merchant is a class focusing on trading. They have many useful skills such as discount and overpriced. They can buy items from NPC cheaper than regular player, and they can sell monster drops at a much higher price. They also have a high drop rate which makes many people choose this class.
**D. User Interface.**

*First login.*

When a player first login to the RO, it will take some times for the *Syder* to synchronize it frequency with the brain. The first time login will require 10 to 15 minutes to check all of the five sense response. You don’t have to set up an identity or ID because we can detect the unique brain wave frequency of each person. One person can only have one character in the game.

One *Syder* can only registering one ID for one player. If a player already has a RO ID, he or she can log in using another player *Syder*. However, if a player don’t have a RO ID and try to log in using another player *Syder*, the player can only watched a movie clip about the RO game play. If a player tries to log in using another player *Syder*, they will have to repeat the first *Syder* synchronization process.

How the character looks in the game can be costumized. Players can change their mouth, eye, hair, body shape, and all aspect of appearance except gender. If a player decides to use their real appearance, the *Syder* can read what we called as human awareness, which is stored in the brain. It reads the data and recreates the character to resemble with the player actual looks. Aside from that, RO is giving freedom to the player to change their character name.

The first time login, the player will be guided by our tutorial NPC named Irina. She has been designed to guide you through the basic user interface and familiarized player with the game. She is also designed using “The Network”, so the player can experience firsthand the ability of our AI. She can answer the entire player question about the game. Also for the first registration, players have to choose the class that they want to be. For each class have different skill window. After completing the registration, Irina will guide the player trough the tutorial.

*User Interface.*

User interface in the game is easy to use. In the top left of the player point of view, there are Health Point or HP bar, Mana Point or MP bar, and Experience Point or EXP bar. On the bottom right corner of the player point of view, there are the clock, hunger bar, and energy bar. RO have 8 main windows. The 8 windows are status window, inventory window, skill window, friend window, party window, guild window, quest window, and reputation window.

To open the windows, players have to call out for the command. But trough the ability of *Syder* to read the Human brain, it is resulting in the ability to execute commands just by saying it in the human mind. For instance calling out Status Window will open the status window, but by thinking about the status window in the player minds will resulting in the same effect.

Players can only see their own windows. It is designed so each player will have their own privacy. To close the window, you just have to say close or just thinking to close the window.
**Player Interaction**

Player can interact with another player or to the NPC in the game. The NPC in the game have several jobs. Shops NPC are NPC that stand-by in a shop and sells item. A player can buy an item from them by asking the NPC. The player also can sell their item to the NPC by using the same method. Every shop NPC can buy item from the player without any limitation. But on the other hand, a player can only buy a potion from a potion NPC.

Player can also interact with other player in the game by talking to them. a player then can be friend with another player, invited them to the party, invited them to a guild, asking for a duel, or trading item. To trade item with another player, just shake hand and enter the command “transaction”.

To prevent player doing immoral things inside the game, the system have set up some security measures. If a player tries to touch another player without consent, the player then will be frozen in place for 10 minutes. Even though both of the player are lovers, even if they tries to kiss inside the game, both of them will be frozen in place before they lips touched. A player can’t remove all of their equipment in front of other player. They can only do that when the player are alone inside a room or inside the bathroom. This measure is taken to ensure the player can play the game without bad reason.

**Status window**

When opening the status window, player can see their HP, MP, EXP, Attack, Defense, and Attributes. It will also show the player status buff or ailments. Player HP and MP will be generated for 5% every 20 second when the player is out of battle. The most important thing from the status window is the attributes.

Attributes is how you determine how you want to make your character. It is divided into 6 areas, VIT (vitality) it’s determining your max Hp and defense. STR (strength) is determining your attack power and will increase your maximum carrying weight. AGI (agility) is determining how agile you are. CON (concentration) will determine how accurate can you hit the enemy and how fast you can cast your skill. INT (intelligence) is determining your magic attack, magic defense and maximum MP. LUK (luck) is determining your critical hit rate and your item drop will increase. You will get 5 points of attributes to distribute among this six when you level up.

1 VIT point will increase the player max HP by 50 points and defense by 2 points.

1 STR point will increase the player max attack by 3 and increase carrying weight by 50.

1 AGI point will increase the player movement speed by 0,025ms and attack speed by 1%.

1 CON point will increase the player vision by 1% and reduce cast time by 0,1ms.

1 INT point will increase the player magic attack by 5, magic defense by 2, and max MP by 30 points.
1 LUK point will increase the player critical rate by 0.3% and item drop rate by 0.5%.

This attribute is applied with the help of the system. If you increase your STR, the system will help the player to be stronger. If a player increases their AGI, the system will help the player to move faster, and so on.

**Inventory windows**

Inventory window will show the player, their currently equipped equipment, and their inventory list. At the top right of the window the player can see the weight limit for example 800/3000. 800 is the player current weight and 3000 is the player maximum carrying weight. It doesn’t matter how much item the player are carrying as long he or she didn’t pass the limit.

In every player left waist, there is a small bag know as adventurer’s bag. The player can put anything in there. To take out any item, the player just have to put their hands in the bag and call out of the item name, or just by thinking about the item. To put in an item that’s bigger than the adventurer’s bag, a player can use the system help by saying the name of the item and put in inventory. For example, “wooden table, put in inventory”. But this item has to be in front of the player. The same rule also applied when taking out the item from the inventory.

**Skill window.**

Skill window will show the player the list of all available skill for their class. It will be unlocked only after the player distributes the skill point. Some of the skills also have a prerequisite skill before they can be taken.

When a player upgrading to advanced class, the advanced class skill will be listed on the bottom side of basic class skill. This means, all basic class skill can be used by their advanced class.

There are passive skills and active skills. Passive skills are skill that doesn’t required mana to activate them. While active skills requiring MP to cast them, it has casting time. Casting time is the time needed for a player to prepare before the skill can be executed. A player can only cast one skill at a time. Some skills have 0 casting time while some may take up to 30 to 50 second to cast. After an active skill is performed, they will enter cool down mode. Cool down is the delay time for each skill before they can be performed again.

Skills have maximum cast range and area of effect or AOE. The range and AOE is usually listed in radius. For example a fireball skill has a 250 AOE, which enable it to hit every enemy in 250 radiuses. For every 50 radius is equal to 30x30cm. So fireball can hit enemy in an area of 150x150cm. Fireball also have 5000 maximum cast range, which means it can only be used on an enemy whom distance is no more than 30m from the caster.

Advanced class skill from commoner class can be acquired by other class advanced skill. The player have to apply at the skill class headquarter and finished the quest. After that the skill
will show up at the player skill window. However the player have to distribute skill point to
the skill first before it is usable.

*Friends’ window.*

Friend window will show the player their list of online friends and their level. To be friends
with another player, a player has to shake hands with them and said, “Let’s be friend”. His or
her name will automatically show up in the friends’ window. The maximum limit of friends a
player can have is 500. There are actions available for your friends, which is message and
telepathy. You can write a message to your friend or you can call them and have a private
chat with them. This two can be done easily just like how the player open their inventory
windows. After all what the player think in this world, the Syder can read the brain wave and
execute it as a commands

*Party windows.*

Party window will tell the player about his or her teammate’s condition. To make a party the
player have to ask to another player, “will you join my party?” and if the person answer “yes”
his or her name will automatically show up at the party window. Their HP and MP bar will
automatically show up at the player top left perspective, below their own HP, MP, and EXP
bar. The party window will show the player their teammates HP, MP, EXP, Level, and
location. The maximum number of people in a party is 20.

When a party is formed, the level difference of the lowest member of the party from the
highest member of the party is limited to 5. For example, if a level 10 player tries to make a
party with level 1 player, the level 10 player automatically becomes a level 6 player as long
as that player remain in the party. As for their attributes and skills, the system has the record
of each player. It just like their character is going back in time. For the experience, it will be
evenly shared, but the high level player experience needed to level up is still the same

The most important thing in making a party is all member of the party will have their friendly
fire status to turn on. It means a party member can attack another party member and killed
him or her.

There is also a function to search for a party member. A player also can put in info if they are
looking for a party in the party windows. This function can’t be used to search for a player
that didn’t put up a party search request or a player that’s not on your friend list.

*Guild windows.*

A player can make a guild if he or she registered it at a guild hall in town. A guild limit is 100
people. The limit can be increased by upgrading the guild rank at the guild headquarter. The
advantage of a guild is you can rent a building that can be used as a headquarters. Each
headquarters will have their own warehouse to keep their inventory and can be used as a re-
spawn point. To make a guild, a player have to pay 50.000 gold for the application form. To
upgrade the guild rank, a player have to pay 50,000 each time. To rent a building, the price ranges from 250,000 to 1,000,000 gold. A guild can only have one building maximum. The Guild master can give permission or banned a player from entering their guild building.

*Quest Window.*

In the quest window, a player can check their quest progress and the list of quests that he or she has completed. The quest window will automatically update each time a player completed the mission. Players will get rewards for completing a quest. There are also recommended quests for player level that he or she can take. To take a quest, a player has to talk to the NPC. If a player is in a party, all of the party members have to be present in front of the NPC.

*Reputation window*

Reputation window will show the player battle history. In the reputation window, there are duel win and lose records, the arena participation and win record, also the FFA (free for all) field kill and death.

**E. Experience and battle system.**

In rebirth online, a player just has to kill 5 monsters whose one level higher than him or her to level up, or 25 monsters at the player level. If a player battle with monster 1 level below him or her, the player have to kill 125 of them if it is in percentage. The monster one level below the player will give 0, 8% EXP. A monster on the same level of the player will give 4% EXP. A monster that are one level higher than the player will give 25% EXP. A monster that are 2 level higher than the player will give 100% Exp points. Monster that is 3 levels higher than the player will give 500% exp, but the player won’t level up 2 levels at once. 100% experience will be used to level up once, and the remaining 400% will be recounted. For example if a player is a level 1 and kill a level 4 monster, the player will end up as a level 2 with 80% Exp.

Each time a player leveled up, they will get five points of attributes and one point of skill points. The player have to distribute the skill points before the skill can be used. To use skill in a battle, the player can say the skill name or just think about the skill in their mind and it will then executed.

To eliminate the possibilities of someone last hitting the player target monster, killing it, and get all the experience, this game system works on percentage. So if a party battle with a monster until it has 1% HP remaining and someone outside the party hits it with a blow that powerful enough to kill it, the killer only gains 1% of exp.

If a player lose his entire HP or died in a battle, they will be re-spawned at the city. The respawn point is located at the medical ward inside the alliance headquarters. If a player died at the field, they will get 1% EXP penalty and 1% gold penalty.

Every time a player killed a monster they will get gold and sometimes an item drop. Gold drop will be automatically added to the player inventory, but item drop will falls on the
ground when the player killed the monster. Item dropped by a monster can only be taken by the player that killed the monster or another player from the same party. Items dropped have duration of 30 seconds in the ground before it disappears. If the monster is killed by a player from outside of the party, the item drop belongs to the player that deals the most damage.

**F. Event and quest**

Event is a special quest that is held once a month. In this occasion, the quest window will appear for every player. Only the fastest player that completes the quest can get the reward. If a player completes the event, the quest window will automatically updated on all other players that it has been finished by: “the name of the player”. The reward from event is a unique item, which is only 1 in the game. To prevent In Real Life or IRL money trading, unique item can only be traded to a player that is currently in the same party of the player when he or she finished the quest.

Quest is requested by NPC in RO. You can take regular quest from the quest window. Taking some quest is another way to get experience and gold. Sometimes they have equipment and item for extra rewards. Regular quest can be taken by the entire player. If a player finished the quest, another player can still do the same quest. If a party wants to take a quest, all of the party members have to be in front of the quest NPC. If a party completes the quest, all of the party member will get the same rewards instead of sharing it.

**G. The Guardian.**

Guardian is a NPC character that can be hired by players to help them out in a battle. To hire a guardian, a player has to fill out an application form at the guardian headquarters. The fee to hire a guardian is 10,000 gold. The guardian will helps a player to level up, but the guardian will have to be in your party. Which is resulting in the even shared of experience. Given that fact, the guardian can level up just like any other player. But if the guardian dies, the guardian level will be restarted to 1 and you will have to fill out another application form to get another guardian.

**H. List of towns and fields.**

RO is divided into 5 continents: central continent, west continent, east continent, south continent, and north continent. There are currently 20 city located throughout the continent. Players can move between cities by travelling or using the warp portal service. To use the warp portal service, a player can talks to the portal NPC about the destination. Gold will be charged when using the portal depending on the distance.

There are also regular field and FFA (free for all) field. Regular field have monster that is recommended for the player current level. FFA field is a field that have monster with higher experience and item drop rate. But in this area, a player is allowed to kill another player.

*List of Towns*

Amber Village – the silent village
Avalon – the city of vanguard
Black factory – the city of crafter and black smith
Dessert’s oasis – paradise in the middle nowhere
Dewata - the city of carnival
Eden fall – the city of light
Edelweiss - the town of beginner
Elka village – the peaceful village
Harbor bay – the merchant warehouse
Illidian – the fairy hideout
Koga village- the historical village of ninja
Lakeside village – the watermill
Magora -the flying fortress
Memoria - the city of time
Miner’s cove – the mining city
Mineral town - the nature village
Misty lake – a city hidden by the mist
Pirate’s cove – the city of bounty hunter
Seaside shore – the city of festival
Waterfall – the city at the end of the world

List of fields
Central continent Field – Level Range 1 - 20
Beginners forest (field level 2-5)
Sewer dungeon (field level 5-10)
Frozen mountains (field level 10-15)
Goblin’s camp (field level 15-20)
West continent field – level range 15-30
Underwater dungeon (FFA field level 15-25)
Clock tower (field level 20-25)
The sunken ship (FFA field level 20-30)
South continent field - level range 30-50
Enchanted forest (field level 30-35)
Magma dungeon (field level 35-40)
Sands pit (field level 40-45)
Desserts storm (FFA field level 45-55)
East continent field – level range 50 -75
Abandoned mine (field level 50-55)
Great stone range (field level55-60)
Dragon’s lair (FFA field level 60-70)
The wind plateau (FFA field level 70-80)
North continent field – level range 75-100
Ancient Cathedral (FFA field level 80-85)
Haunted Tower (field level 85-90)
Misty forest (FFA field level 90-95)
Dragon’s grave (field level 90-100)

I. The arena.

The arena is a special place designed for player versus player or PVP. In the arena a player can test their skill against another player. The arena itself is located at Magora - The flying fortress. There are several types of battle: 1 vs. 1, 2 vs. 2, until 6 vs. 6 is the maximum limit. The arena is the only place that allows a player to kill another player. The player can surrender to another player if their health already below 10%. There are monthly tournaments held at the arena, and the winner will get 100.000 gold.

To battle in the arena, a player has to fill out an application form. If a player is forced to fill out the application form to enter the arena by another player, he or she can report to the guard in the changing room and his or her application will be voided.

Another type of battle between players is duel. A duel can be done anywhere if both players agree. Both of the players have to shake hand and say “let’s duel”. If only one player who
said it, the battle will be voided. After that the nearest NPC, aside from a guardian will come and be the judge. If a player try to force another player to battle with them, he can be accused as a criminal, our stand by GM will then warps to the scene and examine the situation. If he is proven to be guilty, he is then will be processed to the prison.

**J. The prison.**

The prison is located at special field where only GM can warp in and out. Player who’s doing sexual harassment, bullying, forced duel, or even trying to PK another player outside the FFA field will be processed by the GM(game master) in charge and then if they’re proven to be guilty they will be taken to the prison. The player who’s been taken to the prison can’t open their command window and can’t even use their skill. They also can’t interact with other player, so telepathy is out of question. The prison time ranging from 24 hour to 720 hour of login time depend on the crime. So if a player is in a 24hours crime time, he can’t log out and log in back the next day and be freed from the punishment. He has to login for 24 hours in the prison, for him to be released.

With the *Syder* implemented, we’re always monitoring the brain wave condition of each player. If a player stress level reaches a certain degree, such as fear, anger, and anxiety, our GM will automatically warps to the scene and examining the situation. If our GM didn’t show up at the scene and you feel threatened, you can execute the commands of GM call. Our GM will immediately come into your location. The law created inside Rebirth Online is very strict. That is for one sole purpose, so the player can enjoy the game without any other disturbance. The only crime allowed in the game is pickpocket trough the thief skills. We hope that all of the players have the best time of their life in the game world. Welcome to the world of Rebirth Online.