

## Level 0 Master - Chapter 111

“Firstly, youth and health until your death and four hundred years of life. Nothing will be able to affect you, not poison or aging or even disease.”

“Ha... This is...” It was a reward that was beyond wealth or power. Sungjin was impressed by it. Four hundred years is the general lifespan of a country. Well, Gods wouldn't give you something that was worthless, right?

There were countries that survived longer than that, but there were also countries that ended before a few hundred years, especially when it came to dynasties. There weren't many dynasties that had lasted longer than four hundred years.

“Secondly, the women you take will keep their youth and youthful bodies until their deaths.”

“Pff.” Sungjin could feel beady eyes behind him without looking. Oh my.

It was the power to bless his women. It was a proper symbol for a chosen king, but it was a bit difficult for Sungjin. Shouldn't I be happy to have a power to thank them like this?

The method to share the reward was difficult for him, although he couldn't argue with the gods about it.

He felt the pressure of his responsibilities.

“Thirdly, your right to rule this continent and the right to try to conquer the center, but you should be careful before you decide to challenge the center.”

“I should be careful?”

“If you are satisfied with your achievements and stop here, you will be the ruler of the continent for four hundred years. If you try to conquer all three continents and go to the center, there's a chance you will fail and never be able to come back.”

“Okay. I will keep that in mind.”

“We wish you glory in your future.” The Valkyries flew up and disappeared behind the door.

Conquering the center. He wanted to become an Arc Master, which was like a god in this world, and the unification of the continent was the first challenge to do it. The second challenge was conquering the center to unify the world. The last step was to pass the sacred area to become a god.

There were only two people who had made it to the second challenge. There was no one who had made it to the last challenge.

When he arrived in this world, he had nothing to lose, but now there were a lot of people who were counting on him, so the Valkyrie had asked him if it would be the right decision to keep going when he had a lot of responsibilities.

The Valkyrie's right: I should just be satisfied and stay here with everything I have. Pff. But Sungjin didn't announce his decision when he turned around.

"Congratulations." All the noble heroes kneeled to celebrate the event.

"I'm happy for you." Ereka smiled.

"Haha. You are a one-man dynasty." Eustasia laughed with happiness.

"Sungjin Oppa, congratulations."

"Congrats!"

Jenna and Rachel also smiled with happiness.

"Now you are a king who can bless your women." Zakiya put her hands on her breast, as if she were offering her body to him.

"Haha. Thanks, everyone. Should we have a party today to celebrate?"

"Yeah."

Sungjin offered a party without answering if he would or wouldn't challenge the center. He thought it was time to celebrate and reward his people.

It was natural that Sungjin's wealth and power were unimaginable. A president who served as a ruler for a short amount of time in a democratic country had strong power, but Sungjin was a king who would rule for the rest of his lifetime—his power was beyond comprehension. Therefore, although he didn't like too much extravagance, the party he threw was grand and glamorous, and noble heroes from across the continent gathered to celebrate him, thinking simply being there with him was their honor.

All kinds of rare ingredients from all across the continent were there for him, and even regular-looking dishes were exquisite cuisine from top chefs.

Top musicians played music for him. In the other corner, servants took care of the details of the party in the hall to keep the place beautiful and enjoyable. The treasures Sungjin had behind the wall were so numerous that it would require an army just to count them.

He had everything.

But the noble heroes envied him not because of those things but because of the beautiful girls around him. He must be really happy. Well, that must be the privilege of the king.

Many of them had more than one wife, but Sungjin was the only one who had the best beauties from all around the continent. They were the best in beauty, social status and ability.

And when the king takes them to bed, they will keep their beauty and youth... forever

It was a next-level lifestyle to keep young beauties young next to him.

“Sungjin, taste this.” Ereka gave Sungjin a juicy piece of steak.

“Yummy.”

“Oh my god, I’m so happy. I cooked it to your taste.”

“You are right. It’s perfect.” Smiling Ereka and happy Sungjin looked like an item. If there was a painter to paint the scene, the painter would have named the painting “a luncheon of the conqueror and his queen.”

Eustasia cut another piece of steak to feed Sungjin. “I can’t cook, but I can feed you.”

“Haha. Sure, I will eat it as well,” Sungjin smiled, as if he wouldn’t let any of them feel lonely. With a princess on his right and a great general on his left, he looked like a powerful lion among beautiful lionesses.

“Sungjin Oppa, I will give you some cookies!” Rachel jumped on Sungjin’s lap with a long chocolate stick in her mouth and put the other end of the stick in front of his mouth.

“Hey, where did you even see this?” Sungjin laughed but took a tiny bite off the stick.

“Sungjin Oppa, here’s mine.” Jenna came to him with a tiny cookie in her mouth.

“...Jenna... This cookie is way too small,” said Sungjin, only to make Ereka hide a little cherry that she was holding.

If I tried with this cherry, would you think I’m trying too hard? I could jump up on your lap as well... but maybe I’m too heavy...

Zakiya put a glass in her cleavage. “I will offer you a drink.” The glass was full, but her tight breasts held it. It was a trick not many girls could do.

“Hey, there are kids here.”

“That’s why I should teach them how to serve you when they grow up.”

“No need.”

“Pff. You are a conqueror of the continent but you’re quite shy in this department.”

“I would say healthy.” Sungjin felt a bit troubled, but the heroes thought he was just enjoying himself with the girls.

Soon we will attend a ceremony.

For sure. He is old enough.

Hmm. Since he can keep his youth for four hundred years, he doesn’t have to rush to have kids....

Sungjin’s kids would be vassals for his bloodline but not his successors.

But he is too old to spend his nights alone.

He didn’t have to marry every woman he slept with, but since he cherished his girls, and since the girls were old enough for marriage, the heroes thought a marriage or several marriages were coming.

Would he marry them all at once?

One by one?

What would be the order?

“The saint is a bit young for marriage, but maybe he has slept with her already.”

The noble heroes whispered to each other and talked about the royal customs.

Sungjin knew what they were talking about. Sigh. I should take care of this first.

He was the only one with his knowledge from Earth. This world had its own culture and its reasons for such a culture.

He had to make his choice.

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That was his decision.

“Then...” Ereka’s eyes started to shine in expectation. She was not able to react to the word “all” or anything else, since she was a girl from this world, where it was natural for a conquerer to have multiple women, so it didn’t matter how many girls Sungjin would take. She understood that Sungjin wanted to concentrate on the battle and eliminate all causes of destruction, but she felt lonely when he wasn’t around.

Now that you’ve finally conquered the continent...

Other girls thought the same thing.

Is he now planning to get married and have kids?

They were already thinking of marriage, skipping the dating part.

Marriage...

The first...

Our first night...

To be on his arm and become his woman, that was the moment the girls were scared of but waiting for. They felt their hearts pound.

“But not now. I need more time.” Sungjin put down his glass. I will take everyone. That was what he had decided, but his body wanted to do it immediately. It always made him excited to have provocative and beautiful girls waiting for him right next to him, but there was something that he had to do first. “To become an Arc Master, I need to conquer the center and the sacred area. Now is not the time.”

His fight was far from over, and his fight was something that he had to be all in for. He didn’t know how long it would take or how dangerous it would be. It was a rough path to take the girls he loved down.

“Are you going to?”

Sungjin opened up to the girls. “I was hesitating.” Should I stop here? I already have people who are counting on me. Maybe going on would be an irresponsible decision to make.

It was his desire to accept the challenge and try. He was not sure if he could drag the girls into danger for his desire and ambition.

“But... I had two reasons that made me decide to keep going.”

“Two reasons...?”

“First, our continent is better now, but the extras living in the east and the west continent are miserable. What I heard from the sailors was despicable.”

“Yeah, you are right.”

“And I have a way to save them, right?”

On earth it would have been impossible to have such a grand vision, but in this world, it was possible for him. I have power that might be enough to stop it. Would it be the right thing to do if I leave others in misery and just save my continent?

“Second, if I stop, my people will live four hundred years under merciful rulership, but I want to create a world where everyone is respected and treated correctly.”

That was his dream: natural human rights.

He was making his continent where people could live happily without abuse. He was able to do it under his rule—at least for four hundred years. But what he wanted was a world where people had natural human rights.

That’s not something I can do, even as a king with absolute power. It was an impossible world where heroes had absolute power while the extras didn’t have any power to fight. It was a world with a structure that made equality impossible, so, in order to change it, he had to become an Arc Master who could change the rules.

“You are right. That was what you wanted from the beginning.”

“... And there’s one more reason.”

“Another reason?”

“Above all, knowing that there’s an amazing fight waiting for me, I feel stuck just staying here. I’m sorry, everyone.” He knew it was a reason that might be irresponsible, but he wanted to fight. “Maybe my other reasons are just my excuses to move on to the next challenge.”

That was the darkness of Sungjin: his strong desire to fight. He knew that his desire to continue fighting would make the girls unhappy, but he still wanted to go forward to the next challenge.

Looking at Sungjin, Ereka told him with her warm smile, “No, Sungjin. I think I know you. You are not someone who would try to hurt others only for your pleasure.”

“... Thank you.”

“And stopping while knowing there are a lot of people that you have to save wouldn’t be you,” said Ereka, holding Sungjin’s hand. “I understand that it wasn’t an easy decision because you need to take care of the people that you saved, but don’t worry about us.” Ereka looked at everyone as if to ask, “don’t all of you agree with me?” Everyone nodded. “We know that you are worried about us, but we want you to pursue your dream and go forward to the next challenge.”

Her hand was soft and warm, and her words were even warmer. “Ereka...” Sungjin was extremely impressed by Ereka’s words.

Eustasia added her hand on top of theirs with a bright smile. “I agree. I’m your knight and you are my king. When I made my oath, I told you to fly high, right?”

“I...”

“Were you thinking about keeping us here to rule the continent while you headed to the center by yourself?”

“...”

Eustasia knew what Sungjin was thinking, and Sungjin didn’t know how to answer her, because it was his plan. Without him, the order he had established could become chaos again, so he planned to assign the girls as rulers of the continent on his behalf. That was the solution Sungjin had thought of to protect his peoples’ lives and the girls’ safety.

“Let’s go to the center and fight.”

“Me, too! I will join you guys, because I love you all.” Rachel added her hand as well with an innocent smile. “And when we conquer the center, we can cure everyone living in other continents as well as our own. I think that would be the will of the goddess.” The saint told everyone that there would be no discrimination of the goddess’s love among continents.

“I am coming, too, where you two are going.” Jenna added her hand, as if she were competing with Rachel.

“Hmph. We are already one body and soul, don’t you think?” Zakiya said provocatively, and added her hand.

Sungjin couldn’t find his words for a while due to mixed feelings. He wanted to leave the girls because he knew there were a lot of dangers waiting for him. The center was an unknown territory. He didn’t know what kind of challenges and difficulties were waiting for him.

Until now, the enemies had challenged him, and he had no choice but to fight them because he wanted to protect his girls, but it was different this time. The continent was giving them a stable life. The girls didn't have to join him in this dangerous challenge.

"Thank you everyone." He wanted to leave them behind but... Sigh... He was grateful that they wanted to join him... and deep inside... he wanted to be with them all. He wanted to leave them, but he also wanted to be with them. "Yeah, we started this together, so let's stay together until the end."

Sungjin finally made his decision: it wasn't his responsibility to keep them somewhere safe but to win the fight to thank them all. In fact, it was rather against his responsibilities to tell the girls to stay behind and watch him fight. I will not forget today. I will remember this moment and win this.

"Yes!"

"And when our challenge is over..." Sungjin continued with a strong voice, "we will still be together." That was the first promise he made, but it was a clear one. He made it clear that he wouldn't leave them feeling lonely.

"Yes!" The girls were happy. It wouldn't be today, but they didn't have to worry anymore because Sungjin had just promised, and Sungjin hadn't promised it lightly. It had taken a long time for him to think about it, so they could trust his promise and feel comfortable.

"Before we go to the center, we need to organize the system and appoint the representative."

"Okay."

"But tonight, let's just enjoy."

"Sure."

From the first day until now, they had made a lot of memories to talk about, although they were happy to just talk about unimportant things as long as they were together. It didn't matter to them if the place was just a field under the starlight or the party hall of the emperor.

The next day, Sungjin announced that he would challenge the center. He also announced that he would prepare for six months to organize the system to provide security for the people, and he prepared thoroughly.

The gap between the two social groups is huge. It won't be possible to keep the order forever when I'm not here.



He was trying hard, but he knew the limits of the situation. I won't plan something impossible. All I need is time to conquer the center.

Fortunately, it would be possible because his fight against Kapitle had filtered out the good heroes, which would keep the system stable for a while.

And I'll conquer the center before the system fails and then come back to reorganize the system. It was a fight he couldn't lose.

It was a fight he shouldn't start in the first place if he couldn't win it.

## Chapter 1

Six months later Sungjin was standing in front of the door to the center. The door was huge.

The Valkyrie with golden wings stood in front of Sungjin.

[You, the conqueror of the continent.

Gods were watching your victory.

This is the door of challenge that will take you to the center.

Think again before opening the door.

If you stop here, you can stay the ruler of the continent and live a comfortable life.]

He was not a ruler of a country but of a whole continent.

He had loving girls next to him to rule the continent with, and loyal servants and people who praised him. There was nothing he would miss more than living such a great life as an emperor. And four hundred years of youth was guaranteed. No emperor on Earth had such a blessing.

Maybe it would be wise to stop here. "Enough words. I'm going forward," Sungjin answered clearly but firmly. His eyes still chased the stars beyond this world.

[Okay, but keep that in mind. Beyond this door are strong and legendary opponents who are beyond the level of your continent. If you get stuck on the battlefield, you can't come back to this continent.]

When trying to fly, one must expect to fall. "So I should keep winning. Open it."

[You can bring only five people with you. Did you make your choice?]

“Of course.”

Sungjin smiled and looked at his team standing behind him. Ereka, Jenna, Eustasia, Rachel, and Zakiya. They were his closest team members and had a special relationship with him.

He didn't ask them if any of them wanted to go back because it would be rude to try to reconfirm their decision now.

[Gods watch upon your future.]

The door opened. The bright light welcomed them, and they walked into it. The blinding bright light lasted for a while, and when it was gone, they realized they were standing in a completely different space.

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So the first time is to learn about the guardian, and on the second fight, I have to win. Sungjin's brain started to calculate quickly. And that's it... so, until now it was a league, but now it is a tournament?

It was a tournament where there wasn't a consolation round and where he couldn't go back with his result. It was his choice to come there, but it was a rough future that he had to face.

Hmph. I will win this. That was the only way, not just for him but for the girls who came there for him. He felt his heart pounding to think of the strong guardians waiting for him. And there are only two. It won't take too long. As soon as he defeated them, he would be able to go back to the continent to take care of the people there. “So who are those two?”

[The two guardians are those who unified this world and challenged the gods.

They were defeated and stuck here as a punishment.

And those guardians will try to stop you.]

When the Valkyrie revealed the identity of the two guardians, the girls were terrified.

The enemies in the center... the legendary two Kaisers who were invincible...

There were only two people who had won the power to rule the whole world in the history of Valhalla. They were undeniably powerful and legendary people. Unlike Kapitle or Pedrain, who had conquered one part of the world during a short amount of time, they were the strongest of the world throughout history.

And they were staying here to stop the challengers...

[If they win, they will get another chance as well. Gods are expecting a great battle.]

The Valkyrie disappeared as soon as it finished the sentence, and Sungjin's girls became even more terrified. They will try their best... to get their second chance... They wouldn't let their guard down even for a second in order to get their second chance. The girls wondered if they had any hope in this fight.

"Hahahaha." Sungjin's laughter lightened up the heavy atmosphere around them. "They are awesome opponents." He looked back to see everyone. "They are strong, but let's win this so the extras from other continents can live happily without abuse from the heroes."

Sungjin's words made the girls smile. His new opponents were much stronger, but Sungjin was a man who could take that challenge, and that's why the girls had followed him. There was no reason to be scared. "Yes."

"Good. So which way should we go first?" Sungjin looked at the two paths. One is silver, the other is gold. Two Kaisers... that's right. The history of Valhalla said that the first Kaiser opened the golden era and the second Kaiser opened the silver era.

Those eras were a long time ago, and there was no clear record of the eras, and what records remained were not coherent, so it was difficult to know what kind of era they were.

At least there are some records on the silver era, which was the recent one.

Kaiser of white silver Varka. He was praised as the great emperor who ruled the world with order and peace and was called the symbol of merciful rulership. It was told that he took care of national affairs, and that his power was absolutely indisputable.

"He was invincible... Should we face the legend and check out how strong he is? Let's try the left first."

"Yes." It was Sungjin's choice. The girls were happy to follow.

They headed to the temple on the left side. The path had so many spectacles on the way that they actually enjoyed the walk and took their time. The buildings on their way provided heavenly services, just like the Valkyrie had told them.

"Huh..." Ereka tasted a dish and sighed.

"What's wrong?"

"I don't think I can cook anything better than this."

Endless food was provided but Ereka's concern was not the shortage of food. It was my little pleasure to cook for Sungjin... sigh. The pleasure she had in cooking for her guy would be challenging to find here.

"I kind of like the food here, but I prefer your dishes."

"Really...?"

"Yeah." Sungjin didn't want to criticize Ereka's dishes, which were made with love and care, by taste and skill.

Sungjin's kind words made Ereka blush. Sungjin... She was happy that he told her that. But I can't be happy with that. After the fight, I will analyze ingredients and techniques to cook something amazing for Sungjin.

They walked for a while talking about insignificant things, but the important moment was before them. The gigantic temple stood in front of them.

In the center of the pure white temple was a huge statue of a giant. The statue was made of pure silver without any dust on it. The giant sat on a throne with his right leg on his left leg and his head on his arm. He looked like he was in deep thought.

Is it a semi-seated contemplative pose?

The giant statue's eyes started to shoot rays of light to create a person in front of Sungjin. He was also in a semi-seated contemplative pose on the throne. With a crown decorated with jewels on his head, he wore a robe that looked like the royal robe of an emperor. It was a rare style here, but it was a familiar robe to Sungin.

It looks like a royal robe from the empire of some Chinese historical drama.

But it was difficult to define the era just by the look.

Well, there's no reason that robe is from the China from my earth.

Sungjin looked at the guy more closely. He was a middle-aged man with black hair. His firm lips, thick eyebrows and sharp nose showed that he was a dignified man with strong faith. He was covering himself with his huge royal robe, but Sungjin was able to see that the body under the robe was well-trained just from glancing at its silhouette.

He is a Kaiser who conquered an era. His body is strong from the battlefields.

But it was strange, because Sungjin was not able to feel a strong energy. It was stronger than the energy from regular people, but it was less than what he expected from the legendary Kaiser.

Well, I'm sure you are hiding it. I shouldn't judge a book by its cover.

Then, the guy opened his eyes. "A new challenger... it's been a while."

"You must have been bored?"

"Yes. It was a long time to wait."

"Would you like to introduce yourself? No, let me start first." As the one who was challenging him, Sungjin decided to be polite. He was the one who conquered the world before Sungjin, even if Sungjin was planning to defeat him, so Sungjin wanted to show his respect.

"I'm Cha Sungjin. I conquered the southern continent to get the qualification to challenge the center. I'm from earth. I was a player who wanted to become a pro gamer. My current level is 1, and..." Sungjin pointed at him with his index finger. "I'm the one who will defeat you."

"Earth... I miss that name."

"What?" That surprised Sungjin and the girls. Is he... the former Kaiser who was from earth?

Sungjin asked, "Did you come from the earth as well?"

"Haha. I'm not sure if my earth is the same as yours." The guy smiled. "That doesn't really matter. I, and the Kaiser before me, challenged here to become a god by the end of our reign only to fail and become stuck here as guardians. But I've defeated five conquerors who challenged here. Now you are the sixth. When I defeat you, I will be able to change my place with yours."

"So, this could be your second chance that you won't miss?" Sungjin smiled to show him that it was what he wanted as well.

"But I'm not wanting that chance."

"What do you mean?"

"I can just let you take over, depending on you."

"What is this?" It was a good offer, but Sungjin frowned. He was expecting a fierce fight, and the withdrawal of his opponent was a disappointment, but it would be meaningless to push an opponent who didn't want to fight.

"There's one condition."

“Ha. That’s what I expected.”

“If you become the new Kaiser, you have to create the world that I wanted to create.”

“Ha. That’s your condition.” Sungjin smiled as if he now understood everything, and Sungjin was able to understand him: he was someone who was a seeker of truth. What he wanted was to pursue his vision and follow his truth, not his victory... although that didn’t mean he was an easy opponent. A seeker of truth would use everything to find his truth.

“So let me ask you: what is the world you want to create?” A few circles appeared on Varka’s pupils. It looked like the loops to turn the world were in his eyes. “Hmph. There’s nothing to hide.”

“I will become an Arc Master to create a world of democracy with natural human rights,” Sungjin answered with his chest out.

“Democracy... is that what you want?” The loops started to shine in Varka’s pupils. “Do you know the word?”

“Yes. It’s a system where the people take their own responsibility for their fate.” Is he really from earth?

“And that’s why you want to become an Arc Master?”

“That’s right. Becoming a Kaiser wouldn’t be enough to create such a world.” It was an impossible world when there was still an absolute power difference between the heroes and the extras.

“But there’s a limit for regular people. You came here with your power, not with people’s power.”

“I won’t deny that.” The people had tried to help him in his latest fight. That was meaningful, and Sungjin was grateful for their help, but it only happened once, and...

he would have won regardless, even without their help.

A moving image appeared in front of Varka. “People are stupid. When they have freedom, they use it to destroy themselves. I’m sure you’ve seen it, if you are from Earth.”

It was a country suffering from tyranny. People had to follow the freedomless rule of the tyrant made from steel and blood. They were able to eat, survive, and sleep under a roof, but that was it.

A revolutionary force tried to bring democracy and freedom to the country, and finally... freedom came: the freedom of destruction.

Tribes started a war among themselves. Social classes started a war among themselves. Religions started a war among themselves.

The order kept by the tyrant was gone, and people killed themselves in chaotic civil wars. The result was famine and orphans who looked for their mothers in ruins.

“Do you think those kids wanted a vote or a house to live in with their parents?” Dead bodies were everywhere on the streets. Some had been beaten to death and some had been killed by diseases. “People are stupid. Giving them freedom will only lead them to their destruction. Can’t you see?” Varka asked Sungjin with a stern attitude.

It was not a fiction, but Sungjin also saw it on the news and read it in history books..

“What they really need is stability and order to survive and eat, not a chance to put a stamp on a piece of paper. So now, I ask you again: would you say leaving a child next to water is love or holding the child to keep it safe is love? You are beyond a normal human; why don’t you try to control them for their well-being?”

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“Not all?”

“Yes. There are countries like you mentioned earlier, but there are more countries that are abused by tyrants. Absolute power always becomes corrupted: that is the wisdom from my world.”

“That’s only when someone who doesn’t deserve the power takes the power. How dare you desire to be on the top of the world without taking on its responsibilities!” Varka’s shout tore through the air, and the strong pressure from Varka made Sungjin smile.

Ha. This is the enemy I should face: the former Kaiser. Sungjin thought it was worth it to challenge him, and it wouldn’t be enough to mention the danger of tyranny to convince Varka.

There were many cases where great kings had showed true leadership that was better than quasi-democracy. Their leadership had led the country to peace and order. Of course, there were more cases where tyrants had ruined the country. The Kaiser Varka was the great king who was praised for opening the Silver Era for his people. He was the real-life case of ruling by philosophy proposed by Plato.

Moreover, unlike on earth, where a great leader didn’t mean a great successor, in this world it was possible for a king to lead his country for a lifespan if he was willing to...

The reward for unifying the continent is four hundred years of youth. I'm sure the reward for being a Kaiser is much greater than that.

Could anyway say that democracy was better than a millennial kingdom by a merciful king?

"I'm ready."

"Ready for what?"

"I might not be able to make a country that is better than a country ruled by a merciful king, but I'm ready to lead the country to provide freedom and rights and make people use them properly without destroying themselves." Sungjin's plan wasn't to become an Arc Master to create a free equal world and simply disappear after distributing status and power; he wanted to become a god who would lead them and take care of them until the system became mature enough.

"You wouldn't rule with a power of a god? To make people mature? It's an impossible dream."

"It is possible."

"Nonsense." People are imperfect, but Sungjin wanted to create a world of freedom and equality, while Varka simply thought people were stupid and wanted to rule them as a god.

Their gaze was intense. "So there's only one solution here: I should defeat you to rule this world again."

"Ha. Okay. Let's fight to decide," answered Sungjin with a smile.

There was no point arguing anymore. "Sure." Varka stood up from his throne.

The next moment, Sungjin realized why he hadn't been able to feel Kaiser's energy until then. Haha. Now I can see.

Sungjin thought Varka was hiding his energy, but that wasn't it; he had never hid it. Sungjin hadn't been able to see his energy because it covered up the whole temple, just like when you walk into a mountain, you can't see the whole view.

Sungjin was in Varka's hand, and Sungjin was able to feel Varka's overwhelming energy.

Huh, great. That's the Kaiser that I feel like fighting against But Sungjin didn't know what kind of power he would face. Would he face a power that was greater than the Holy Pope Pedrian and the Wise King Kapitle?



“Open the battlefield.” The four sides of the temple closed and the space changed to become a battlefield.

This is... Looking at the battlefield, Sungjin realized it wouldn't be an easy fight.

It was a temple where everything was perfectly symmetrical. All the decorations were done with perfect symmetry on the wall, the ceiling and the floor.

There were two large halls on each end, and a narrow path connected them. The paths were decorated with geometric ornaments without human or animal shapes on them. Oval columns were on each wall, and there was a mysterious scent that came from somewhere. From far away, a faint bell sound rang in the temple. It looked like a temple that had been there for an eternity, more than a thousand years or even more.

Facing Sungjin, Varka stood in the center of the round hall on the other side. He looked like the god the temple was dedicated to.

But Sungjin was able to look through and understand the function of the battlefield. There was only one path connecting two halls, and the path was not very long. It is a battlefield where we need to fight with our pure power against each other.

It was a simple and plain battlefield where Sungjin couldn't use many of his plans, although he defeated his enemy in such a battlefield by catching him off his guard.

Should I try first? It was not an advantageous battlefield for him, but he was determined to win this fight.

The fight began.

I have a lot of crystals to start with. He had enough crystals to use his artifact right away. Although it would be the same for Varka.

Sungjin observed Varka to see how he would start the fight. Sungjin was with his six team members. On the other hand... Varka was standing alone.

“Hey, aren't you going to call your team?” When Sungjin asked that, Varka started to walk toward him slowly.

He answered, “A leader has to be alone. When you need a team, that makes you imperfect.”

“Hmph. You are going to keep your faith. Sure, but my teammates and I are together until the end, so don't complain.”

“Doesn't matter. Losers are losers no matter how many people are gathered under the loser pretending to be a true leader.”

Varka ignored the turret on his way and got closer to Sungjin, and that made Sungjin smile. Haha. It's getting interesting.

This was the center. The Holy Pope or the Golden Wise King were stronger than all this army, but they still brought their army with them. It was better to have a bit of support to achieve complete victory.

Hmm, I read the legend that he was a superhuman king who took care of everything by himself, so I assumed he would be strong enough to fight us by himself, but...

But Sungjin hadn't expected him to come to fight by himself. Great. That meant that Varka was sure of his power, and Sungjin was happy with such a challenge.

It was a six-on-one fight, but that didn't make Sungjin loosen up his guard. So, let's see what kind of skills you'll use.

Sungjin had already thought of the possibility that he would be defeated in the first fight. The first fight was an engagement in reconnaissance, but Sungjin didn't plan to just give this one to Varka. He planned to fight back with his everything according to the circumstances, so that even if he lost, he would know everything about his opponent.

Unlike his enemy with high level and strong skills, Sungjin's strength was his plan, so his second fight would be his real fight, and this first fight would be the groundwork for his real fight.

I should take his first skill without using Ereka's Aegis, if possible. He wanted to save Aegis to fight back Varka's ultimate skill. If that would be impossible, he planned to use all their skills to make Varka use his ultimate skill to learn about his skills and power.

How shall I command this? To make his perfect judgement, Sungjin's eyes started to shine even sharper.

They finally faced each other. Sungjin's team started to move. When they started to try to use their skills, Varka stopped them all. "I don't need those small things."

His explosive energy filled the temple. It wasn't an explosion, though. It was a calm yet endless weight that covered the sky and the ground at the same time. It was like god's hand covering up the whole world...

Is he trying to use his ultimate skill already? Sungjin made his decision. Even if this was not his ultimate skill, he didn't have much choice. "Ereka! Aegi..." But he couldn't even finish his command.

Although Sungjin didn't finish his words, Ereka decided to use Aegis, but she couldn't. Varka's skill was faster. The light was already covering up the ground and making a

circle around Varka. The circle was made with multiple concentric circles and covered not only the battlefield but the whole horizon.

In the circle of light were holy letters that were the symbol of the Universe. The circles started to turn like wheels. Each letter represented different spirits and started to shine in gold light. And in the center was a king of the world with four huge letters around him. And there were eight huge letters around the four letters. And there were countless letters around them.

It was a Mandara that was the symbol of the Universe. The Mandara was beyond the concept of strength and weakness. It was simply transcendent. There was an absolute order in it.

“The Front Wheel of the Universe.” That was the name of the skill that Varka showed.

Sungjin and his team were not able to move a finger in the absolute order of Mandara. They couldn't even fight against it, and their skills were sealed by it.

Durandal, Aegis, the Honeydew Bottle, the Holy Magical Sword Dawn Bringer. All the magical weapons were separated from their owners and fell down on the ground to fall asleep.

Their bodies were also sealed. Sungjin wasn't able to use any of his martial arts. Ugh. He couldn't even moan. His body was paralyzed, and he couldn't even move his mouth.

Sungjin and his team were captured by the Mandara of light and were perfectly neutralized.

Defeat was not a good enough word to describe it; it was beyond domination. Transcendent was the only word that could describe the situation.

It was their first fight in the center. Their first opponent was the Kaiser Varka, who used to be the conqueror of the world. He was also a merciful king who ruled the Universe with order. Sungjin and his team couldn't do anything in front of him, but were neutralized.

This is... the ultimate skill of the Kaiser of White Silver. Sungjin had to admit his greatness.

He created the order around him to make the world's rule under him, and imprisoned his opponents to make it impossible for them to do anything. It was an absolute order.

It was not a magic square or a closed space.

Sungjin and his team had to admit that Varka was a next-level opponent that they had never seen before.

It was beyond the concept of strength. It was something that they had never experienced.

“Now you see? This is the power that I achieved in order to rule the world. You don’t even have the strength to fight this, yet you tell me human beings can be better?”

Ugh. I want to say something back, but there’s nothing I can say. The only thing Sungjin could do was think.

“I was able to rule the normal people with the right regulations, but some special souls like you needed a special way of ruling.” Varka raised his hand. “You. You are trying to give the destruction called freedom to the people with your mere power to conquer a continent.”

Crack.

Crack.

The space above Sungjin’s head tore open, and energy sparkled around the crack. Sungjin was able to see the endless space through the tiny crack.

“I will rule you with my own hand.” The next moment, a huge hand came from another dimension to snatch Sungjin up. “Seal the Devil from the Western Sky!”

Sungjin’s body remained, but his soul was forcefully separated from his body.

Sungjin! The girls were still trapped in the Mandara. They couldn’t do anything but watch as the hand took Sungjin away and threw his soul into the endless space.

## **Level 0 Master - Chapter 115**

There was no second chance that the Valkyrie told them about. Varka’s skill had found the weak point of the rule and had sealed Sungjin’s soul during the first fight.

“His soul went to where it is supposed to be. His body will lose its life and will fall back to dust. You should drop your illusions and let him go.”

Ereka looked at Varka with eyes filled with tears. “If you call my feelings for Sungjin an illusion, I will keep my illusion. Sungjin will come back.”

“Come back... Look what happened to his soul.”

A moving image came up among Varka and the girls.

Chapter 2

In the world that Varka showed them, there was a huge city in the center and six cities around it, and those six cities were surrounded by seventy-two small cities, and there were towers that fit each city's size. Each city had its own balance with buildings and roads placed according to a plan.

Looking down from the sky, the place didn't look like a place that was sealed. It was clean and beautiful. It was not an abyss in darkness or a burning hell.

Then the moving image started to show the small city among the larger cities.

The city was cleanly organized around the tower in the middle. The river running around the city was spotlessly clean with fish, and there was a bridge where cars with cargo moved around in perfect order. It was a place with perfect order unlike cities on Earth.

People worked hard, and robots moved around to monitor people instead of police officers, but everyone followed the order, and there wasn't much for the robots to do. There was no trash on the street, and all the waste was perfectly sorted. It looked like an ideal city that every country on Earth would like to have, and in the middle of it, Sungjin was standing there. He looked like a newly joined mechanic with his working clothes, tool box, and a driver in his hand.

A passerby bumped into Sungjin, who was standing with vacant eyes. "Excuse me." The passerby politely apologized for his tiny mistake.

"Don't worry about it." Sungjin slightly bowed politely to answer him.

And on the back of their heads... were chips around three centimeters large... Countless legs from the black chips pierced their skin to reach their brains. That was the only abnormal thing in the perfect place.

After apologizing, Sungjin started to think. Why am I standing here? Who am I?

There was an order in his head. Your duty is to tighten up the screws on the box in front of you.

Tighten up the screws? I'm sure I have other things to do... "Ugh."

Do it.

With the firm order, Sungjin felt a strong pain. To avoid the pain, Sungjin started to move reflexly. He followed the order and opened the box to tighten the screws. When he started to do it, an unknown pleasure went through his whole body. "Ahh." A substance from the chip stimulated his brain to give an incomparable pleasure. The name of the substance was "soma." It was a mystical substance that gave endless pleasure.

To keep the pleasure, Sungjin kept tightening the screws, but while following the order, he tried to find out who he was. He was a mechanic working in the area to manage the maintenance of the boxes. He was trained to do it, and enough food and a comfortable bed were provided as long as he worked. And he was able to get soma to feel happiness.

But I'm sure there's more that I should remember... Don't I have a past that I should remember?

You are a mechanic working in this area. Fulfil your duties. Don't get distracted by daydreams.

With the order, he felt the merciless pain again. Ugh. With the pain, he couldn't keep thinking, so he couldn't remember anything even if he tried to think of something from his past. His memory of his past was sealed and hidden.

Pain and pleasure. Pain was what people wanted to avoid, and pleasure was what they wanted.

Every time Sungjin tried to think of his past, he felt pain, and when he followed the order, he felt pleasure.

To avoid the pain, Sungjin followed the order. He couldn't remember who he was or anything from his past, so the best thing he could do was follow the order and adapt himself to the situation.

The pleasure and happiness from the soma took away his determination to try and think of his past that he couldn't even remember.

His soul with its stolen past was tamed to the world he was locked in to.

"See? He is no longer the conqueror of the continent. He is just another citizen who follows the orders of my world."

"Sungjin!" Ereka cried out his name, holding Sungjin's hand.

Sungjin suddenly stopped his driver.

Creak.

He recalled a girl under the sun with shiny blonde hair. Her body was perfectly balanced with beautiful breasts and a slim waist. Her hip was curvy and linked to her soft thigh. It was a girl who was graceful and beautiful.

Who...?

When Sungjin tried to remember more about the beauty, an extreme pain stopped him. “Ugh.” And the pain erased the clue he was about to have. What was that? Why such pain...

He couldn't remember what he had been thinking. All he knew was that he was thinking about something that was not appropriate. What he had to do was tighten the screws in front of him. I should hurry up. If he couldn't meet the quota, he would get less soma.

“What are you doing!” Eustasia shouted in anger.

He recalled a girl with beautiful silver hair and straight posture. Her eyes looked like shiny moons. Her body under her armor was fit like a beautiful lioness and trained like a shiny sword.

Creak.

Another extreme pain stopped his thoughts again.

“Sungjin oppa...”

“Your Highness...”

Rachel and Zakiya called out Sungjin's name.

He recalled two girls again.

One was a girl with eyes like the dark sky and a cute short hairstyle. Her smile was warm and kind but the little girl was not just young. With her hands together as if she were praying, she looked like a saint. Her tiny body was lovely and cute, but her merciful smile looked after everyone.

The other girl was a more mature woman with passionate red hair. Her breasts were big and curvy, and her waist and hip line suggested a hot night. Her sun-kissed skin was S\*xxy and had a provocative rose scent. She was a beauty no man could resist.

Who are...?

Creak, creak, creak.

Stop thinking. Think of your duties. Think of your calling.

The extreme pain made Sungjin go unconscious for a second.

When Sungjin regained consciousness, he started to question things again. Why such pain...

Creak.

Ugh...

There was nothing he could remember. He thought he had remembered something, but he couldn't remember anything about it anymore, just like an adult who had forgotten everything from when he was one year old.

It's useless to think about that. I should... work.

That's correct.

He received soma again.

Ah... He hadn't even finished his work, but he was rewarded for having correct thoughts. The pleasure that went through his body erased all of his unnecessary thoughts. All he was able to think about was finishing his job to feel the pleasure again.

"Sungjin..."

"You guys are truly connected. I didn't expect you to shake his sealed memories from beyond the dimension. But it doesn't mean anything. He doesn't have much time left." Varka pointed to a golden circle with twelve letters on Sungjin's chest. Half of the letters had already lost their light.

"This is..."

"This shows the time left for his body. When all the lights are gone, his body in this world will disappear and his soul will live in his new body in my world for eternity. So you guys should give up and go back to your world. That's the mercy I am giving you."

"Not yet! It's not over yet. Sungjin will come back!"

"That's an illusion. Then watch him until the end."

Sungjin was working hard to tighten the screws.

Next area is A4 and then C3.

His brilliant brain tried hard to follow the dear leader's orders. He obeyed all the orders and didn't think. He obeyed to not feel the pain but also for the reward.

The chip on the back of his head sparkled. His correct thought made the chip provide pleasure substance to his brain. Happiness and satisfaction spread all over his body.



It was a mystic substance that gave everything that people needed to feel happiness, and that made Sungjin smile with happiness. If he obeyed and followed the order, the chip would give him the substance as a reward. It was so satisfying. "Ah..."

When his happiness from the soma ended, his body trembled for a second, feeling badly now that the happiness was over. He wanted to feel that happiness again, and he knew what to do to feel it again. The next area.

He didn't have to think. All he had to do was work hard, rest during his break time, eat when he had to, and sleep when he was ordered to. All he had to do was follow the given schedule and follow the orders from the dear leader.

Just like other citizens, he became a model citizen and became satisfied with his present.

No. He was a true model citizen who worked hard with his brilliant brain.

"It's over." The last lighted letters on Sungjin's body started to fade.

"Sungjin!"

"And without him, I will rule Valhalla again. But don't cry. He is happy."

He was happy. Not as a conqueror of the continent or a challenger of the center but as a model citizen who worked as a mechanic. His brain didn't have to think of anything else... He was one of the citizens who worked hard to avoid pain and get more pleasure. That was Sungjin now, and that was his future.

When he got more soma, Sungjin looked happy, just like Varka said he did. Now he would live in simple happiness without any concern for dangerous battles or complicated state affairs. It was real nirvana.

"If you really care for him, let him go."

There was no other way...

The last light disappeared.

The seal was completed.

"Sungjin!"

"Huh?"

Sungjin felt a slight tingle in his heart and frowned, but it was brief. Pleasure filled his senses. With the happiness the substance was giving him, Sungjin stopped thinking and

enjoyed the pleasure. All his five senses were satisfied. He had no concerns. Everything was fulfilled. He was truly happy. It was the blessing of the dear leader.

I will follow his order forever. When he promised himself this, the chip rewarded him with more soma. It was a reward for having the correct thought.

“Ahh...”

Sungjin was thankful for the kind pleasure that went through his body and soul for thinking something he was supposed to.

Endless happiness.

There was nothing to worry about.

## **Level 0 Master - Chapter 116**

“I will not give up.” Sungjin. I believe in you. Ereka grabbed Sungjin’s hands. She trusted him. There was no reason to. There was no proof to. She simply trusted him because she loved him, so her duty was to protect Sungjin’s body until he returned.

She deeply pressed her lips onto Sungjin’s one more time. I’ll share my life force with you.

A body without a soul was bound to dry up without the means to produce its own energy. The only way to keep the body alive in its vegetative state was to share the life force of another continuously. She would protect his body until he returned.

Sungjin’s soulless body greedily reacted to Ereka’s body with the goal of fulfilling his emptiness by deepening the kiss between them. Lips clashed against lips. Sungjin’s tongue sought her body. Two hands grasped onto her while he tried to suck out her tongue.

Ereka opened herself up without reluctance and gave away all of her life energy as needed. I had hoped for a romantic first kiss, but... Ereka smiled calmly despite the tears dripping down her face. She had imagined that her first kiss with Sungjin would be more romantic and more passionate while locked in an embrace.

This wasn’t the kiss she had dreamed of. It was a kiss shared with a soulless body.

Sungjin, I’ll be waiting.

“You’re delusional,” Varka said. He was confident that everything was done and over with.

The scene before him was simply confusion brought on by disbelief and reluctance to accept the facts.

### Chapter 3

Sungjin was stabilized. He was no longer tormented by pain.

Days of completing the work given, following orders, and being satisfied by the daily achievements, continued.

Ereka's faith wavered, and she found herself reaching her limit. Even if she had a high level, there was a limit to her ability to maintain the optimal body.

Varka declared solemnly. "It's soon."

Timeout.

The once majestic eagle was now a broken-winged chicken. The once roaring lion was now a well-trained cat from pain and rewards.

There was only one light left in Ereka's chest.

"You've proved your dedication. No one will deny that you've kept your faith. What would be the point in bringing about your own death? Give up."

At Varka's words, Ereka looked at Sungjin. She had waited for a long time and had burned out her own life, but Sungjin hadn't moved at all. Even if she were to add the last light in her chest, it was likely that nothing would change. Ereka acknowledged Varka's words. "I see. That's true." She had done her duty.

Others would have said the same thing. Any other lover would have said that she had been a dedicated woman.

"Yes. Now stop."

"Yes. You're right." Ereka hugged Sungjin's lifeless body closer to herself. "That's why, from now on, my choice has nothing to do with duty."

"What?"

"From now on, my love will be the cause of my sacrifice."

She may not be repaid. Perhaps Sungjin had been truly consumed by the enemy's grand world and would never return. Even still... "It is my wish to give him even the smallest opportunity by burning up my life force." Ereka moved her last life force into Sungjin.

It wasn't morality. Or duty. It was simply... her desire to give her last to Sungjin.

Sungjin...

Her confidence wavered at Varka's words that he'd never return. She was anxious that nothing would happen, even after burning out her last life force.

Still... If it was for Sungjin, she wouldn't mind giving her last. She wouldn't mind, but...

Sungjin... Please... Wake up.

Sungjin surveyed the area he had been assigned to. Today's plan to gather the largest amount of soma would be...

It was then that a strange event interrupted the peaceful and orderly quietness of the city.

A large siren roared.

Unidentified chip. Scanning.

Unidentified chip. Arresting.

Beep. Beep.

Sungjin's eyes went toward the source of the siren and were immediately captivated by the sight before him.

The scene was so beautiful that he forgot all about gathering soma.

Her black hair, which was pinned up, possessed a calming shine. Her skin was soft and silken. Skin sweeter than the ripest peach flowed from the top of her body to the bottom. Her clothes, which were of oriental design and made with silk, looked pretty regardless of the time or age because of its grand design. She looked like an angel playing the pipa as she walked.

She was beautiful.

Sungjin silently observed her. She also had something else to her beauty.

If that was the only thing she had, she would have been simply beautiful.

She...

Was fighting.

Robots armed with stun guns rushed toward her in masses. Her body looked so frail it seemed as if it would break apart with a single shot.

And what could a woman with a pipa do? But she did do something.

Her thin fingers thrummed against the pipa. The heavens rang, and the air vibrated as the robot's arm came down.

Has she used the sound as a weapon? Even from afar, his brain had begun to calculate the possibility. Who is she?

Her fingers flew more quickly, and the following music flapped its wings vibrantly. The robots that were following the sound broke one by one.

"Leave! Dogs of Varka! I will never quail!"

Sungjin swallowed his surprise at her words. She will be punished for saying that. Doesn't she fear pain? How could she say that?

But she didn't stop and instead cut across the multitude of robots before her with her pipa.

Her body was frail, but her fighting was amazing. She had an invisible sword whose strikes could not be seen.

She's pretty.

Her steps, which cut across the bodies of the robots, flowed beautifully alongside her music, as if she were only taking a walk. Her feet moved simply and delicately, but she had miraculously avoided all the attacks.

She's predicting the enemy's movements... No, she's guiding their attacks. Sungjin saw through her movements. Amazing.

But... it could be disrupted. If she kept moving like that, the enemy could read her movements instead, and if they ever came up with a trap... but the robot could not make such calculations. It only ran forward with more numbers on its side.

But that was also working.

Over one dead robot, two more appeared.

More was better than less.

She could avoid and attack, but she finally reached her limit against the waves of robots.

Pzzt.

The stun gun hit her squarely. “Ah!” Her entire body shook in pain. “Stand back!” She ripped out all of her strings at once.

[Vibrate Through All]

With a circular impact, tens of robots were crushed.

It was a strength that was impressive to see.

But right after, she panted in pain.

In that moment, robots attacked once more.

“Ahh!”

Stun guns pinned her down, and her elegant stance crumbled under its pressure.

How unfortunate.

The scene of violence against one person was wrong.

Arrest complete.

Return to position.

Adding new chip.

Several robots returned to their position and only a few remained to arrest her.

“You foolish things... Who dares... I... I refuse... To be the slave... of some chips... I will remain a free person...” the girl murmured, but the robot steadily held onto her.

The robot pressed down on her thin body without her consent, and she shook. She wouldn't be able to fight back no matter what she tried. A robot approached from far away with a chip in hand.

Can they do that even if she refuses? Sungjin questioned the sight before him.

The chip blessed them with soma, but at the same time, it punished them when they didn't follow orders.

The beautiful girl was refusing it. It could be foolish considering the wisdom the Soma grants.

But... that was one's decision and freedom. Wasn't it a violation of privacy to force it on her? Should she be punished for refusing it? She had not hurt anyone, but had simply stood up for herself. Weren't the region's robots at fault?

Pzzt.

Argh.

Pain overwhelmed his mind.

Cease those thoughts.

Everything is granted under the wisdom of our ruler.

The ruler is always correct.

The voice inside his head told him how to avoid the pain. And Sungjin's brain was trained to react in a certain way towards these kinds of situations. There was no need to suspect the region's lord. He blamed himself for doubting the ruler. His actions all had a reason and purpose. The girl would be blessed to receive the blessing of the soma through that chip.

I should return to my station and work. And as soon as he thought that, soma spread throughout his body. The wrong was righted and the good was rewarded. He was satisfied by the simmering pleasure running through his body.

...

It was meant to be so, as long as he did as the chip ordered, but this time, Sungjin refused to avoid the pain, even though it was painful. His questions could not be stopped, even if he didn't receive pleasure, and even if the pain grew stronger.

Even if he didn't get the "answer" within him, he couldn't pretend to ignore the sight.

If injustice was happening before his eyes, he had to observe it. It was his instinct soaring beyond the brainwashing of the chips that had been implanted.

The girl refused the chip, and, to such a girl, the robot had violently tried to force the chip on her. In the meantime, she was hurt and her opinion was rejected. Was that right?

Don't think about it.

Grip.

No, he had to think, no matter how sick it made him.

Did the girl really get punished? Could one just claim one's freedom? Could it be trampled on?

Gasp. No. If something wrong was happening, should he turn away to avoid the pain? That shouldn't be. Above all, the girl reminded him of something in many ways.

Remember...

Who?

Someone he wanted to protect... Girls?

Girls?

Who?

## **Level 0 Master - Chapter 117**

Do not remember

A wave of pleasure washed over him, seeing that he did not respond to the torture.

It was the highest level of soma that could be granted.

Do not concern yourself. Leave your destiny in the hands of the given wisdom.

A pleasure that ran through every nerve in his body tried to make him faint once again. It was a warning that he wouldn't be able to feel such happiness if he kept thinking.

Wasn't it scary to be absent of such pleasantries?

His body, which had become accustomed to soma, trembled in fear and pleasure.

But... I need to keep thinking.

Even in the midst of his pleasure, Sungjin kept thinking. Because there was someone being stepped on before him. He couldn't ignore her for his own happiness. He had to think about whether the girl should be treated that way.

Our ruler is the absolute justice.

No.

Justice or not, he couldn't ignore this, even in pain or pleasure.

Because he... he... had people he needed to protect.



He remembered the girl's faces one by one that had been submerged in his memory, memories that had been sealed when he was thrown into this world.

Ereka. Eustasia. Jenna. Rachel. Zakiya.

How could he have forgotten, even in spite of his promises to protect them?

Crack.

Cra... craack.

Pain rampaged around his body, trying to make him faint, but his awakened mind refused to break.

As if he had reached a critical point, various scenes passed by his mind. Various information rose and disappeared in a flow. The influx of information made him dizzy, but his brilliant mind absorbed everything.

His brain, now with a purpose, tried to recall everything and recovered the happenings on earth, the events after Valhalla, and several other events.

Are you abandoning infinite happiness and returning to depravity?

Depravity? No, that was a part of him: to save others, to challenge others, and to find special relationships, and the depravity and determination that stemmed from those experiences.

That was him!

Blood flew. His skin was broken. "Haa. Haa." And the chip was ripped out. Sungjin grasped the chip, and electricity flew across his hand. "How noisy. How dare a meager object attempt to order me around." He was not going to be defeated by such a thing.

Ha. What a mess. The lion raised his head. "You humiliated me." Sungjin looked at the sky. "Fine. This kind of humiliation is befitting of my defeat. I won't contest that. But there will not be a second time. I challenge you again!"

The lion raised his fist towards the sky and roared. "I will escape this place! And return to beat you!"

He had people who he had promised to protect, after all.

\* \* \*

He had a goal to achieve. A responsibility to fulfill. That was the reason behind his decision for a real life.

It was because he didn't fear such pain that he didn't beg for pleasures and betray himself.

He was Cha Sungjin, someone who would become the Arc Master of Valhalla!

"Wait for me for just a bit more. I'll return to apologise if I've made anyone cry for my pathetic loss."

It was the beginning of a counter-attack.

"Sungjin," Ereka cried.

The last bit of light was flickering in her chest, but she smiled. Her faith had not been wrong. Sungjin had woken up.

Please... Forgive me for doubting you.

But she did not have enough time to give him everything she had.

Suddenly, Eustasia grabbed her hand. "Leave the rest to me."

"Eustasia."

"This isn't just your duty. It's all of ours." And she smiled refreshingly as she tossed her hair over her shoulder. "Huhu. I was planning to say something cool, but didn't expect it would be you I'd say it to. It's fine. You should share some of the responsibility with us."

A chance to do something for him.

"Yes."

Ereka smiled in return as she handed over Sungjin's body.

Varka's eyebrow twitched. To think he'd break out of his leash. I suppose he is a lion even when thrown into mud.

It's human instinct to seek joy rather than pain. It's natural for a person who's lost his memories to follow the rules of his surroundings, but to think he wouldn't ignore the "pain of others." He had stood up to resist the pain and pleasure despite his memory loss.

That alone was one side of Sungjin that he had not known.

It's the end.

It was a world run by the rules he created, but at the same time, even though he was the ruler and the source of the rules, he couldn't control everything. That was why Sungjin, a resistance fighter, was forced to become a prisoner.

Or was it not a "coincidence," but a result of his women's prayers? If they had given up on him, he wouldn't have walked into this moment.

But it was a meaningless resistance.

Even if Varka had cut off the leash of where his soul was residing, he was still in the world he had created. Even if one was locked in a huge prison and barked for freedom, the sound would not go over the fence.

He can try, and realize how futile his actions are.

After all, a flimsy dream can produce nothing. His women were just wasting their time, because the order of his world did not exist only by control through chips...

The real challenge was from now on.

#### Chapter 4

Sungjin moved quickly and rushed over to the robot who had caught the girl.

Beep! Beep!

[Without chips. Search.]

[Without chips. Arrest.]

The siren rang loudly, and the robot trying to execute the chip on the girl hit Sungjin first.

Vicious fists and guns were aimed at him at the same time.

"Ha, the actions are at an AI level."

Sungjin laughed lightly, avoiding both attacks, and returned to the robot's back. It's a pity that I don't have a holy sword. Instead, there was a driver in his hand.

It would have been indignant to throw it, which was a symbol of humiliation, as a normal rebellion.

Sungjin smiled at him and held his hand and turned a screw on the back of the robot.

Attacking the enemy's supplies are the basics of war. According to the Art of War, one supply island taken from enemy camps was worth ten islands. He was going to reveal what kind of weapon a driver could be in his hand.

The robot turned back and aimed at him again. However, it was a pre-computed move for Sungjin.

The driver moved brilliantly in a row.

Even though there was no force to cut the steel, it could unscrew the back of the robot. All four screws were loosened, and one of the back plates was opened by Sung Jin. It was a complex and sophisticated control panel. Sungjin drove the driver into its control panel.

Pzzt.

At that moment, electricity fizzled and the panel broke. The robot stopped with a chattering sound.

"An isolated driver is more useful." Praising the opponent's tools, Sungjin turned to the girl. "Are you okay?" He removed the robot's arm and released her.

"Who are you?" Her whole body looked torn, but the voice remained unchanged elegance.

The elegance of an oriental nobleman came naturally. "I'm Cha Sungjin. I'll tell you the details later, and since it's clear that we have the same enemy, all you should know is that I'm just a guy who'd saved you."

"Sungjin. Okay. My name is Sooryun. The rest I'll explain after the escape... .."

"Can you walk?"

"Yes, somehow."

That said, she made as if to stand, but staggered, as her legs were weak.

"Impossible. Leave it to me now." Sungjin gathered her right away.

"Oh, this... .. This is... .. inappropriate... .." She became shy and pushed Sungjin's chest away, but Sungjin did not let go.

"There will be many situations from now on. Do you know what's the priority of escape safely?" He persuaded her strongly. It was not time for courtesies.

"... .. Yes, but you will have a hard time moving with me."

“Do not worry. It’s not a big burden. You’re lighter than I expected.” Sungjin smiled and hugged her with one hand. It was true. A little more than Rachel. But much lighter than Erika or Eustasia. It had to be because she had a slower growth as a part of the yellow race. Above all, he couldn’t say it’s heavy while holding a girl in crisis.

“I’m sorry.”

Sooryun buried his face with red cheeks. I did not want to get off anymore.

“Then let’s escape now.”

But the situation was not good.

[Beep!]

[Beep!]

[Impurities occurred!]

[Blockade! Blockade!]

Again, sirens rang out over the city. At the same time, robots came from all over.

Sungjin ran away from it. The terrain is open here.

Because of his given work. Sungjin ran a narrow road where the robot found hard to move. Again, he circumvented the siege by actively using roads that was included in the robot’s “map,” such as walls, railings, and doors of buildings.

## **Level 0 Master - Chapter 118**

Varka, who had been watching, questioned silently, “Now what will you do?”

It was surprising that Sungjin had been able to rip out the chips in order to save Sooryun, but all he had achieved was being surrounded by Varka’s robots.

A level 0 could not win against the massive army of robots. He would be captured once more, implanted with the chip and returned to normal. Even if he were to commit suicide, Varka’s world caused the dead to rise, as the soul wouldn’t leave the body, and with the chip still intact, he would return to being a respectable citizen.

There would be no chaos to his order, and therefore no ripples in the calm waters.

Bang.

The metal robots began to seriously chase after Sungjin.

Bang.

A hammer launched from a robot's outstretched hand. It hit the wall to his side. Immediately, the wall broke and debris flew.

Sungjin had been able to read the trajectory, but it had only been a moment's notice. Sungjin turned around with a hardened face. He had to pass through the bridge, but as there was no apparent solution, he was simply trying to find a way to avoid the conflict before him.

Robots chased after him.

Bang.

Bang.

Hammers were thrown right behind him, and Sungjin kept dodging them, but how long could he do so? The encirclement around Sungjin kept getting smaller and smaller. Even as Sungjin ran about here and there, he was forced into the middle of their encirclement.

Is this the end?

Sooryun, who was in Sungjin's arms, clenched his shirt. "May I suggest something?"

"What?"

"I believe it's impossible for both of us to run away. Between me and you, I believe the enemy would value my capture more."

"Because you're a more valuable person?"

"Yes. I'm a cadre of the resistance army. Let's split up, so that I can try to buy some more time for us. Please try to find a way to escape in time." She talked of her sacrifice quite calmly, but Sungjin could feel that her entire body was trembling as she was in his arms.

"I refuse that plan."

"Of course, I do realise that it will be hard to cross the bridge even with this plan... but if there's a one percent chance..."

"There's a better method for the both of us to run away, so why should you?"

“What?” Sooryun blinked. Her face, which had remained neutral although she had been tired and fearful, changed, and for the first time, the image of a young girl was revealed. How?

She was surprised that he had saved her by ripping out his own chip, but was he really saying that they could run away from this? They were surrounded, stuck in a situation where they could only run around in circles.

“I’ll show you.” Sungjin smiled jokingly and began to run once again.

But, unlike what he had said, the situation did not get better.

He ran into the nearest tower. While running around, robots chased after him.

Sungjin ran to the top of the tower that was bound to end. Still, he kept running because he would be captured as soon as he stopped. But his body was human. His legs turned heavy, and his lungs started to heave. But the reason he couldn’t stop was due to the girl in his arms.

The robots kept chasing after him, whether he was tired or not.

Bang.

Every time the hammer struck, a wall collapsed. The attack was to kill, so that they could be captured in order to insert a chip.

Under such continuous attacks, Sungjin had no choice but to run. He was like a mouse running from a group of cats, but there was no hole for the mouse to hide in. The only bridge towards freedom was blocked.

Sooryun felt her demise coming closer while she lay in Sungjin’s arms. This is it. She had already prepared for her capture. Suddenly, Sungjin brought out a rope from his utility bag. A rope?

“Hold on.” He broke the window and jumped out, hooking the rope onto a decoration.

Ah! Sooryun instinctively held tightly onto Sungjin’s chest. The firm chest embraced her.

Sungjin slid down the rope before kicking off the wall. The rope loosened slightly, and the window below came closer. Sungjin approached the window in his returning swing and threw himself in.

Crash.

Protecting Sooryun from the shattered glass with his body, Sungjin lessened the impact by rolling onto the ground. With this, the distance between him and the robots had widened.

But putting this small distance between us won't mean anything for trying to pass through the bridge. Sooryun was still unsettled. Won't he be meaninglessly hurt?

And, accordingly, the robots began to move towards them. The robots on the bridge didn't move but waited, sealing the exit.

That was when the unexpected occurred: the tower started shaking.

"Huh?"

The shaking became greater.

Craash.

Craash.

With a loud sound, stone debris began to fall from the top of the tower, and, starting from the place they had come from, the tower started to lean.

Rumble.

Now that the main supporting beam had broken, the tower collapsed without fail, but it wasn't simply falling; it was falling according to the walls that had been destroyed. The tower fell according to the direction Sungjin had planned: on top of the bridge where the security robots stood, the only way of escape.

The tower weighed more than a million tons. The large robot was squished without the chance to use its cannon. In the tower, the robots chasing after Sungjin broke from the impact. All the robots stopped moving as the connection center broke.

Sooryun had to suppress her beating heart in Sungjin's arms. Tha... That was amazing. To think this was what he had been preparing. This man... is daring. This man... is amazing.

Her astonishment caused her mouth to drop open. With such a lithe body... and such a sharp charisma... he was a man who made her drool.

Ah! What am I thinking? She regained her senses and her composure.

\* \* \*

She closed her mouth and gave out due compliments. "You're... amazing..."



“I told you I’d open up a road, didn’t I?” Sungjin smiled.

“You ripped out your chip yourself... You seem to have an impressive past.”

“Let’s talk about the details later and escape first,” Sungjin shouted once he leapt onto the newly made tower bridge. “I’ll back off here for now. I’ll see you all later.” It was a provocation that relieved him of his humiliation not a moment too soon. It was a retreat similar to a magic show, but his declaration was similar to a grand return.

Running away doesn’t mean I will not return. I will soon declare my return. With that, he walked out of the city with the girl in his arms.

Sooryun glanced at Sungjin. It’s rude to look at him like this... but he’s so interesting.

She had never seen a man like this one. Despite his age, which seemed older than hers, his body was firm and lithe. There was no fat or overly large muscles; he looked very much like a dancer or a graceful predator.

A refreshing smile and natural-born charisma, and his strong strategic mind. She had unknowingly listened to his orders. Sigh... He had a man’s scent, which made a girl’s heart swoon.

Perhaps she had listened to him because she instinctively knew his suggestion was the only way to survive the perfect encirclement that was inescapable.

Obviously hundreds of cats could have been locked up, but he could not be trapped because he was a lion. The robot’s net was nothing but a bundle of yarn.

What should I do? She was in his arms, so her heart ran faster and faster, despite the fact that she should be more reserved before a stranger as she was in his arms.

Even if the situation was urgent and it was unavoidable, why were her cheeks so red?

But...

He was a nice guy.

The moment she had thought everything was over, he had appeared like the wind and rescued her from the overwhelming siege. On top of that, he was like a wild beast that ran without hesitation while his hands were occupied with carrying her.

His strength and sharp intelligence that showed up all his enemies... This kind of person... ... It’s the first time. Is this what it feels like to fall in love at first sight? Who is this man? Where did he come from?

What she wanted to ask, what she wanted to know, piled up like stones.

He escaped... Varka closed his eyes. Amazing. He used my robots and terrain to break through.

It was a world he had created inside himself, but that was why he was an outsider.

The world was seemingly inside him. He had created an autonomous maintenance system that consisted of robots and control chips that corresponded to "immune cells," but he couldn't interfere himself.

It was true that simple rules dominate. Even so, it was inherently the world in which his laws were implemented.

But to think Sungjin was able to distort it like that.

But even if you break the collar and escape, you're still inside the giant fence.

He could be one of the wandering nomads who refused chips in his world, but he would still be in his world.

"Huhu, it's a counterattack."

He said nothing to excited girls' words. Even if you burn away all of your lives, there is no way for him to escape the world.

They would soon realize that.

Even with all the others, the remaining time for Sungjin was now only two hundred and thirty-nine hours and thirty-five minutes.

Sungjin, who fled the factory area with her, stopped after seeing that the enemy was not following. He placed Sooryun on the floor and asked, "You said there's a resistance? Can you guide me from here? I don't have any information on you guys."

"... Have you been in captivity until now?" Sooryun looked at Sungjin, taken aback.

A polite yet elegant voice reminded her of the sounds of the millennium. "That's it."

That means... That means he had escaped within a moment after removing the chip.

Sooryun looked at Seongjin once again and looked down. Her heart beat fast in front of the strong and slender body and the face of a friendly young boy.

He must be a great person.

He may have been trapped in this world, but he must have been extraordinary once.

I have a lot to ask...

But first they needed to have some leisure.

"I understand. There is a base for insurgents. I will lead you there."

"Good." Sungjin moved along with Sooryun.

For now, it was time for reorganization.

## **Level 0 Master - Chapter 119**

Sungjin smiled at them. They were the ones who would become his comrades in overthrowing this world.

"M'lady!"

"You're back."

"You're safe!"

They looked at Sooryun and greeted her.

"Have you been successful in your subterfuge?"

"To be honest... no. While I was scouring the new supply point, I was found out for having a fake chip."

"My! I'm glad you were able to escape!"

"I'm sorry for worrying you all while failing my mission." Sooryun lowered her head a little. Despite the order to her actions, there was the grace of a dancer.

"No. We're glad you were able to return safely."

"But the person beside you...?"

"He's the person who saved me. His name is Sungjin."

"Ah!"

"If it weren't for him, I would have landed in the enemy's hand."

"He is a benefactor, then, but how did he... save you?"

"I will tell you the details later. First, let me prepare a resting place for Sungjin."

“Oh, I understand.”

“That house is empty, isn’t it?”

“Yes, it is.”

“Sungjin, this way.” Sooryun led him to it. Although it was run down, it was organized. Although the bed made of grass and hide wasn’t grand, it was clean. “Please, take a break. I will call you when dinner is prepared. Let’s talk while we eat.” She bowed gracefully and solemnly.

“Fine, let’s do that.”

“Then please excuse me, as I have several matters to discuss with the others.” She walked away with reserved steps.

Sungjin stood after a while. I should still have time until dinner. His body was too wound up to remain still.

After running, fighting, and walking across several plains, his entire body was dirty. He walked out of the house. Coincidentally, there was a person on the other side. “Is there a facility to wash around here?”

At Sungjin’s question, the young man of the resistance pointed. “If you go around that building, there will be a bath.”

“Thanks.” It would also be better to wash before the formal meeting.

Sungjin walked around the building as told and came across a worn bathing house. Inside, there was the sound of running water. Seems like someone’s already here.

But that didn’t matter. This was a rebellion headquartered in the mountains. They wouldn’t have space to create individual baths. Even if he had lived the life of a king in Valhalla, now was now. He hadn’t been a ruler from the beginning, after all.

“Excuse me. Let’s share the bath.” Saying so, Sungjin opened the door and made eye contact with the person inside.

The clean bathroom had a basket to put clothes in. There wasn’t a dressing room. It was a system of pulling water from a large tub into a small bucket and pouring it over one’s body.

His eyes trailed down the body automatically. Dark hair like ebony ran down the back. The drops of water flowing down the fair skin were like pearls. The eyes were wide open with surprise. They were beautiful and clear.

The unfinished woman trembling underneath was also attractive.

Slender neck and smooth shoulder curves. Flat chest and thin waist before womanhood. Freshly curved hips.

Its appearance was reminiscent of a soft but noble pedigree, a charm different from the cuteness of a very young child, but attractive, as it was beginning to bloom. The body, yet to enter womanhood, was still appealing to him.

“Ahh!” Even her shout sounded like the beautiful crisp chirping of birds.

If this deer were to be cooked, its skin would be soft and chewy. It was truly a lustful sight.

The problem was... it wasn't proper.

Damn. Sungjin prepared himself for profanities. Was this a shared bath?

Even if it was a worn resistance ground, it had been his miscalculation to think that they would still have separate baths for women and men, and even then, he had believed there would be different assigned timetables for its use.

But as the person who had pointed out the road didn't warn him of anything, he had let his guard down, believing it was available to use. But it was also cowardice to blame it on someone who had told him where to go.

Firstly, he had not looked into the situation properly. And lastly, he was the one who had ogled at the sight before him.

Closing his eyes a moment later, he turned his head. “Sorry.”

“Go away!” Unlike the elegance he had seen so far, Sooryun screamed again and again.

“To ask to bathe together! How rude!”

“No... That's not...” Sungjin tried to explain that that wasn't his intention, but he gave up and turned around. It was not the time or place to talk about such things. “I'll walk out, so see you later. Sorry.” Sungjin moved politely from the scene.

Sigh. It could have gone worse. Leaning against the closed door, Sungjin gathered his breath. One mistake, and he could have been mistaken as a pervert. She's younger than what I thought she was.

He had thought that she was older because of her extravagant words, but she wasn't. She had simply been trained to speak like that and was otherwise a child.

She's slightly older than Rachel but younger than Ereka. No wonder her body was so light.

On Earth, she would have been a budding middle-schooler, and as a high schooler, he would have seen her as a little sibling.

Even after the door closed, Sooryun couldn't get out of the bath. Have I gone too far?

Had it been a good decision to push away someone who wished to become one with her?

If it had been any other stranger, it would have been the right thing to do.

But Sungjin may be my fated person.

She had thought it over. She had thought it twice: when she almost got pushed over by a robot and implanted with a chip and when she had no way to escape, completely surrounded by robots.

He had been there. He had saved her when no one else could.

The same insurgents like herself just talked, and did nothing about the situation.

Hadn't her heart pounded in her chest as she escaped in his arms? It was not just from touching a man's body... .. It was because she felt that this man was her fated partner.

If a man who saved her life wanted to court her, it was acceptable.

If so, was it correct to reject him so coldly?

She shook her head. Her elegant hair shook and water splashed.

No, there's still order and law. Sungjin hadn't officially said anything about their relationship.

Even if she didn't need brilliant gifts, she still should have received the words of sincere promises and requests.

Okay. I wouldn't seem flirtatious if I remained at a distance from him.

She had done well.

It was the right decision.

No matter how desirable he was, she couldn't allow that last step without first confirming a good relationship.

After bathing, she put on her clothes and went back to meet Sungjin.

This time, seated quietly in his room, Sungjin greeted her. "Haha. Are you done?"

"Yes."

Sungjin admired her once again. Originally dignity and elegance had oozed out of her, but when she had washed and decorated, it was enhanced.

Her hair, which had been pinned with a hairpin, was elegant and refined. It was difficult to pinpoint the specific era, but her clothes seemed to be of the royal family.

But when observed closely, he could see that the material was made of cheap cloth. The clothes formed an optical illusion created by her princess-like appearance in her own palace.

She looks older than she really is, although she's actually a lot younger.

"Well, uh, earlier... . ." He wanted to apologize once more, but she stopped him from talking.

"I will tell you clearly. I was saved by you, and I was thrilled with your heroism." She was ashamed to say so, and she blushed slightly. Still, she kept talking. "But if you force yourself on me in that way, it won't work. We are not in such a relationship yet."

She didn't want to scream anymore. With elegance, but in clear denial, she asked Sungjin not to do this in the future.

With some misunderstanding. Sungjin scratched his cheek.

"I will apologize once again for the recent occurrence. But it really wasn't on purpose. I asked where I could wash, and a man pointed me there. I just thought it would be a men's bath."

"Really?"

"Really. I was not hungry enough to defile a child like you."

"I'm not that young." She pouted her lips as she spoke.

Ha. Sungjin stifled his laughter. Her anger at being treated like a child only caused her to look like one. She was perhaps a little bit more mature than Rachel, somewhat like a young girl who wishes to be treated like an adult in her growth spurt.

"Well, it would be nice to loosen the hairpin so that your hair flows more naturally. But ok, that's your choice," Sungjin indulged her.

“... .. I’m not young.” Sooryun frowned without noticing that his tone had subtly changed.

“Hahaha. Let’s get to the point. Do you know how to get out of this world? ”

Sooryun also regained her graceful original form. “You want to get out of this world and go back to the original world? Is that your purpose?”

“Right. I have many people who I must go back and meet.”

“Who are they?”

“Well... there are precious women I should be responsible for, the many people who believed and followed me, and the more ordinary people I should protect.” Sungjin remembered each face one by one.

“I see. That aligns with our purpose. We also want to break this prison.”

“Is there a way?”

“Yes. I had figured out how to be freed from this world. I just didn’t have the power to do it.”

“That’s great.” Sungjin’s eyes flashed at her saying that she had no power. Challenges were always welcome. He knew that destroying Varca’s prison wouldn’t be easy.

“But since you’re Sungjin, you may be able to... I’ll explain first.”

“Please.”

“Sungjin, the city you were residing in is a countryside city of this world. And in the center is the core city, and in the center is the source city. ”

“Right.”

“There is a World Stone in the most central city”

“World Stone ... By any chance....”

“Yes. If the stone is broken, this created world will be broken. ”

“And everyone will be freed?”

“Yes, then we can go back to the original world.”

“Right.” Sungjin nodded.



Even if Varka was a Kaiser, it would still take tremendous effort to maintain this one small world as a whole. If Sungjin could break down the sources that helped him maintain it, Varka wouldn't be able to trap them anymore.

Varka himself had said that this skill was called "The Seal of the Devil From the Western Sky."

Then he would awaken from within the seal.

"On the contrary, there is no way out of this world unless we break it. Even death is a brief pause here—soon we get a new body and wake up."

"Unless it's clear, it's an infinite continuation. I see. Later, by that time, it would be a prison for the soul."

"Yes. Varka, who claims to be the god of this world, is also the jailer of this world. That is this world's identity. I see you already know that."

"What are the challenges in breaking the World Stone?"

"That is... It's hard."

"Tell me what difficulties you have."

## **Level 0 Master - Chapter 120**

"What is it?"

"The World Stone is protected by five guardian robots."

"Guardian robots?"

"Yes. And once you've entered the sealing place, a special battlefield is created for one to either win or lose. You must win against these five robots in order to reach the World Stone, but..."

"The robots are strong."

"Yes. There is only one person in the resistance who can go against a robot one-on-one, which is me. Our second-in-command has some strength but not enough, and the others don't have levels at all."

"I see." Sungjin understood the situation a little. Yes, Varka must have created this seal based on the properties of Valhalla. That was why there were traces of Valhalla in this world.

And the solution to break through those armies is in the hands of this resistance.

He couldn't trust the solution of the weak, but he could decide that after he had listened to their plans.

Then, is my responsibility to overcome those five guardian robots?

A created battlefield must be like those created in Valhalla.

"Fine, I've heard the important parts. I'll take care of the second challenge."

"What?"

"If you can help me reach the World Stone, I'll do the rest from there on. Including you, I only need four exceptional people from your group."

"Is it really possible?"

"Trust me."

Sooryun looked at Sungjin. His confidence was outstanding. "There is no one in the resistance who can help you other than myself."

"That's fine. I can overcome some level of difference in battling." Sungjin thumbed his head lightly.

"Certainly... You did break through the encirclement of forces." Sooryun's heart began to beat once more. Perhaps Sungjin may be able to do it. There had to be some strategy, like using the remaining three as baits, perhaps.

"But I'm more interested in your ability." Although he had already seen her fight against those machines.

"Understandable. I'm a level 7 warrior class."

"As I thought: a warrior." My instincts were right.

He had once thought that he would meet a girl in the warrior class some time ago. If he was fated to meet girls in each of the respective classes, he had thought he would meet a girl of a warrior class later on, although he hadn't expected her weapon to be sound.

A young but elegant female warrior with a "Sound Sword." Someone who was a beautiful artist even when not singing—that was Sooryun.

Now that I think about it, if Sooryun plays and Zakiya dances, it might make a beautiful scene. He had already regained his confidence to leisurely contemplate other thoughts.

“As you can see, my weapon is a lute, and I have several skills that can defeat the enemy by the soundwaves that I make.”

“Yes, that’s enough.” A level 7 was enough.

“Is it truly?”

“Trust me.” Sungjin lessened her anxiety immediately.

“Amazing. But since you’ve said so…” Sooryun felt as if the day of conflict was drawing near, not because this man had saved her, but because this man was her fated person. Her instincts were what she relied on the most, but this far into the conversation, she was curious. “Can you tell me more about yourself, Sungjin? You can refuse if you wish to.” Who was this man? He had ripped the chip out of himself by his own hands and protected her, now saying he could beat those guardian robots.

“I’ll tell you. We’re allies. You have the right to know.”

“I will listen carefully.”

“I come from the world called Valhalla.”

“Valhalla.”

“Is it your world?”

“No, it’s not.” Sooryun shook her head slowly.

“Is it because it’s a different name? I was in the Western continents, so you could have been in the south.”

“No. That’s far from the truth. The place we come from is called Earth, and there are seven continents on it.”

“Seven… I see.” Sungjin also confirmed that her Earth and his Earth were different.

“Our world we must return to is also different.”

“Is that so?”

They fell silent for a while, but this wasn’t a conversation that could lapse.

“Who were you in your world?”

“Ahh, um… A king.”

“King?”

“Yes. After uniting the entirety of Valhalla, I challenged the Kaiser of the middle gate and was trapped in this world by his skill.”

“I see. We...” Sooryun’s face turned ashen before continuing. “To be honest, we don’t know when we arrived here because it’s been such a long time since we were trapped.”

“You don’t remember?”

“No. With the chip, you aren’t able to remember your past, but without the chip, the past fades away like water slipping through your hands. I believe it’s the nature of this world.”

“I see.” Sungjin understood. Before he had found a purpose, he had also forgotten about Valhalla.

“But I still remember a little. We had not lived in wealth, but the place we came from was peaceful and beautiful. There were mountains and clear water. Looking up at the sky in the plains granted a clear view of the stars.”

“It seems rural.”

“And I only recall that we were in another world one day, all of a sudden.”

“That’s this world.”

“Yes. I can’t remember how long we’ve been here for. No one in this world ages, and even if we die we receive a new body, so...”

“This place is a prison which you can live eternally once captured.”

“Yes. It may not be hell, though. Those with the chips are not tortured, after all, but we still wish to return to our original place.” Even if it may be ruined, they wished to return to their lands.

“I feel the same way. I must return to Valhalla.”

The two looked at each other and smiled. “Let’s work together.”

Sungjin stretched out his hand first for a handshake. “Yes.”

Sooryun’s cheeks blushed when she grabbed his hand. It was the foundation of an alliance. “Then let us dine together. I will show you what we have prepared afterwards.”

“Yes, let’s.”

After completing their baths separately, Sungjin followed her to the banquet hall. It was very humble compared to the banquet halls he had become accustomed to in Valhalla, resembling more of a villager's meeting place.

The hall was simply some lopsided tables and chairs placed inside a building that was larger than the others. Even the dishes that were prepared were made of the least amount of natural resources possible. Although it was coarse food compared to the clean foods provided in the city, Sungjin welcomed it. This was the place where real life thrived, after all.

"It's nice."

Sooryun glanced at Sungjin, who ate without a single protest. He was a king. A king who had conquered an entire continent. I can now understand his previous actions: how he freed himself, how he escaped the encirclement with such intelligent strategies, how he came to have such charisma.

There was no evidence that Sungjin had been king, but he had the aura of a king.

But that means... Sooryun, who had been astounded at his disposition, frowned. He had said that there were several women he had to meet once he returned. Although, it would have been more strange for a king of the continent to have only one concubine.

So that means that even if I were to become his woman, I would be one of many.

Of course, there was nothing wrong with a king having many concubines.

But it doesn't mean that I have to accept it.

Even if her opponent was a ruler, she had the right to make her own decisions. It was her decision whether or not to follow Sungjin.

He was handsome and charming... But just because he had saved her from a crisis didn't mean she had to follow him. And...

Our worlds to return to are different.

The continent Sungjin talked of was from a different world. It was not the world she was trying to return to. After destroying the World Stone, the places they would return to would be different.

If it would be a pointless relationship... then there was no reason to begin it at all.

It was a good decision to reject him after all. She would not fall for Sungjin again; they would only last up until the moment the stone was broken.

Sungjin observed Sooryun as he ripped out a chicken leg. What on earth is she thinking about for her expressions to change so rapidly? Like a cat. Approaching, but not. Like a cat who ignored him and then attacked like lightning once his attention was elsewhere. Even I find this hard to understand. He could see through the enemy's plans on a battlefield, but a girl's mind was a labyrinth to him. But there was no reason to know.

In his perspective, meeting her in and of itself was luck. If she had not appeared, escaping from the chip would have been hard. He wouldn't have been able to escape the situation with his memories sealed. Moreover, he wouldn't have had enough time to figure out how to break out of the world by himself. On top of that, she was someone who had a resistance army, and she was a level 7 warrior. She would be a valuable comrade in his future battles. There was no reason to pick on the details. He simply wished they would be cordial until the end.

After dinner, Sooryun stood. "Was the meal ok?"

"Yes, it was good." Even though she had asked politely, Sungjin felt she was being cold. He couldn't pinpoint the feeling, but it seemed as if she were trying to distance herself.

Hmm... Must be my misunderstanding. There was no reason for her to do so.

"Then I will show you something we've been preparing."

"Okay." It's my misunderstanding, right? She was going to show him the secret weapon, after all.

Sooryun led Sungjin to a deep cave. The cave was small, but it grew larger the deeper they travelled inside. There were stalactites hanging off the ceiling and stalagmites rising from the ground, and in the center of the clearing was a mysterious space where grains of light continuously rose from the earth.

A large hole, almost ten meters in diameter, was dug deep into the ground where the grains of light continued to rise.

"This... . . . ."

"We call it 'the dragon vein.'"

"The dragon vein ... That's Feng Shui geographical terminology." Sungjin considered the name plausible.

\* \* \*

And at the very center of the vein was a bead of seven-colored light that alternated continuously.

“What is this marble?”

“We named it the dragon ball, but we don’t really know what it is.”

“Dragon ball.”

“The important thing is that this marble we found can continuously contain the energy that’s rising from the veins.”

“Indeed... ” Sungjin was reminded of the Leviathan made by the Golden Wise King Kapitle.

“Then, if you unleash the energy of this marble in a row, will a very powerful explosion occur?”

“Yes. You’re sharp.”

“This breaks the defense from the outside as the resistance fighters break through.”

“Yes. After that, you have to enter the center tower and fight against the five robots that are keeping vigil.”

“Is this marble fully charged?”

“Yes. There was no way to overcome the second challenge, so I just kept it. ”

“Then let’s see. Find a member to join within a day, and I need three days to train after that.” He wanted to be more prepared, but he couldn’t afford it. There wouldn’t be much time left to return to my body.

Ever since his memory had been reclaimed, the hearts of those leftover from Valhalla had been conveyed to him. Although it wasn’t very accurate, their approximate feelings were clearly connected.

He had time from their dedication, but they were still asking him to hurry. Even if he didn’t see them, he understood their situation to some extent.

“After that, we’ll go straight to the center. An additional week here. I’ll make it right after that day.”

“Understood. I will follow that command. ”