

Level 0 Master - Chapter 121

Huh, he's well trained. Sungjin wondered if this man was the "sub-commander" Sooryun had mentioned.

Even if he did not have the level, he seemed to be strict on himself.

"Miss! You're safe!" Contrary to his hard and unyielding eyes, his features softened in happiness.

"It's you." Sooryun smiled softly at him.

He could feel the bond that had developed over a long period of interaction and trust.

"I was getting worried because you were an hour late."

"I'm not that late. Don't worry."

"And I was further concerned when I heard that there were extra problems from my subordinates."

"Yes. There was a problem. But I see you have not heard that I was rescued by Sungjin. Let me introduce him. Sungjin?"

"Ah, this is Sungjin." The man looked at him, but it was not the soft gaze that he had looked at Sooryun with. He looked as if he were a shepherd facing off against Sungjin, a lion aiming for his innocent sheep. Was it simply wariness mixed with jealousy? Or was it something else?

"I am relieved that this man has saved you. He has saved me by extension."

"Yes."

"But, even if he may be a savior, he is an outsider. I believe you have been too hasty in bringing him to our most secret place."

"It was necessary. After all, Sungjin is our hope that we have been waiting for. Sungjin had originally been a ruler in his world, and although he was defeated against Varka, he has the ability to battle against him. He has also suggested helping us break through the final defense of the World Stone."

"Just because he claims to be someone doesn't mean that he is. We should be careful in the way we approach the World Stone, not simply entrusting the task to a stranger."

"Of course. I'm not trusting him on his words. Sungjin is my savior, and he showed an amazing talent for strategizing when destroying the encirclement. It would have been

impossible with just you and me. I have sufficient evidence for trusting his strategies for the battle.”

“It is amazing that he saved you by breaking out of a city encirclement, but a strategy is also based largely on luck. We cannot decide everything based on that one chance occurrence.”

Looking at Dunpyung, who was insistent, Sooryun sighed. “It is good to be careful, but it has been a long time since we’ve been able to make any progress due to that very carefulness.”

“It’s better than heading the wrong way.”

Sungjin finally interfered in their fight. “I don’t think this is something that can be resolved by words, and he does have a point.”

“Sungjin?” Sooryun looked at him in bewilderment.

“So I want to suggest something. You there, you claim to be her equal? You wouldn’t be able to accept my abilities with simple words. If breaking out of an encirclement doesn’t convince you, how about testing me?”

“Kuk. You bastard.”

“You propose how we’re going to do this.” Sungjin smiled nostalgically at the situation.

Thinking about it, this situation was identical to the situation after he had been summoned to Valhalla. In a world where levels were the deciding factor, people had tested him, claiming that a level 0 should not be recognized. Those words had disappeared as soon as he was called the otherworldly king, or a young lion, and more, but hearing it again made him amused rather than angry. Although, back then even Ereka had not been able to trust him, but right now Sooryun, who had witnessed his flashy escape, was thoroughly on his side.

Then would this man be in place of Rittier? Now that I think about it, he looks like him, too. He wondered if Rittier looked like the man before him when he was younger. If he’s the next-in-line of the resistance, I should squash him completely to make him comply.

It is the basics of basics to organize a group’s hierarchy before standing in front of the enemy. Sungjin arrogantly provoked the man once more. “Now, how will you test me? A one-on-one fight like a man?”

That was Sungjin’s trap. If Dunpyung really did go for an individual battle, Sungjin would find it more difficult. Here, there were no facilities or traps he had already prepared, and his level was still low. If it was simply a sword play, he had confidence he would win, but

if the opponent planned to use skills he didn't know, he didn't know what variables he would have to deal with.

"I have heard that our leader has praised your strategic mind."

And the opponent was baited.

"Yes."

"I'm sure you have some strength, as you were a king in the past, but the enemy's numbers are great. They cannot be beaten by sheer force. I dare you to prove your strategic mind again. We will each have five people in our team, and our contest will simply be ordering them. It will be in that mountain."

"Fine." Sungjin agreed immediately.

I'd already predicted you'd go with a strategic battle when I suggested a battle of strength.

"If you win, we'll do as Sooryun suggests. But if you lose, you wouldn't suggest advancing towards the central tower, would you?"

"No."

"I will choose my five subordinates first, then you choose your own."

And after saying so, he turned on his heels and tightened his muscles. Sungjin, is it? I'll stop you. Even if he used some cowardly methods. This was not an individual battle. This was a battle about Sooryun, so he wasn't going to be picky about methods. You may be confident in your strategies, but you're the one who's trapped.

The mountain he had pointed to was a terrain he was familiar with. Sungjin would have no way of knowing the secret paths or the best observation peaks. And he knew best where the map was "wrong." Sungjin didn't. And, moreover, he could pick his subordinates first.

I know who's the best among our three thousand. He didn't know what Sooryun would tell him, but he had the first choice. On top of that... he will be recommended to those who are exceptional within the remaining group, but my spy will be chosen. And that spy would tell him Sungjin's plans.

His predictions were accurate. The people Sooryun chose for Sungjin were the five he already knew. Good. It's according to plan.

Sungjin may be stronger than me because he had been strong enough to rescue Sooryun. He may even have a level that's higher than Sooryun's. But if this was purely

a competition among his subordinates, he had the advantage of having been in this organization for a long time. A newbie wouldn't be able to understand the ins and outs of his organization.

He eye signalled to his planted spy Yungryoon. Yungryoon twitched his hand to signal back.

I don't know what he's planning, but Yungryoon will tell me everything in hand signals.

The battle started on the mountain.

What will happen? Everyone was curious.

Sungjin spoke to the five. "I saw the map, so I need you guys to hide here. Everyone to this position," Sungjin directed the four. "And afterwards, I need you, Yungryoon, to lead them here. You guys can throw your stones and arrows then."

Although they wouldn't be hurt, as the arrowheads had been exchanged with paint bombs, this was a battle where, once painted, the person was considered dead.

"Yes."

Sungjin ran into the darkness. As ordered, the other four went to their positions, and Yungryoon carefully told Dungpyung about Sungjin's plans.

Dungpyung laughed silently after listening. "I see. He's done for."

"What should we do?"

"I'll first pretend as if I was lured. All five will chase after you. But there, three people will go around and attack you from behind."

"Yes."

"He won't know that we already had a small road made. Yungryoon, you pretend as if you've lured us."

"Yes."

He will show whose plan was victorious.

Dungpyung waited leisurely for the victory flare. And... a while later, the flare went up as predicted.

Except it became Sungjin's win.

“Hooow!?”

His subordinates lowered their heads at his anger. “The thing is.... We were counterattacked... At the very path we were going...”

There had been a trap in the secret path they had taken to go around Sungjin’s ambushes. Because they had lowered their guards from Yungryoon’s words, they had been taken down easily.

“What?” Dungpyung glared at Yungryoon.

“N... No.” Yungryoon defended himself, saying that he had not betrayed him.

“He’s right. Don’t blame your subordinate. He repeated the details of my order down to the very letter,” Sungjin clarified for him.

“Kuk, you, you bastard! You tricked me!”

“You should have known a spy can be used as a double-edged sword.” He should have known a spy could become a sword that cut him. He was an enemy whose thoughts were way too easy to read, enough so that Sungjin hadn’t needed to prepare a grand plan.

The other resistance members were amazed. To think he would know the terrain like his own palm and defeat Dungpyung so easily. There was a reason why Sooryun trusted him.

“Arg, damn it!” Dungpyung turned his back and walked away like a sore loser.

“What rude behaviour... to think he is unable to accept his defeat.” Sooryun sighed, and lowered her head towards Sungjin. “I apologise. I have been incapable of controlling my sub-commander.”

“No, it’s fine. His arrogance is a natural reaction.”

“I am thankful for your understanding.”

“Ha, well.” Sungjin smiled.

After having witnessed her true figure, a middle school student, her mature words only looked cute in his eyes. But he only thought so and didn’t say it out loud, as she disliked anyone pointing it out.

“But please don’t see him negatively. He’s incapable of controlling his bouts of emotion, but he’s not a bad person.”

Sungjin smiled at the sight of her carefully protecting her subordinate while apologizing on his behalf. "Really?"

"Yes. He's someone who has stayed by my side despite everything. Please let go of your grudges. For me."

"Your relationship looks special."

"Yes. He said that he was my butler when I was the lady of the house in my previous world, yet..."

"Yet...?"

"Do you remember my telling you I had no recollection of the events that had occurred in my original world?"

"Yes."

"But I do have certain impressions. He had been a person who was by my side and who was constantly worried for me. I do have a feeling he had not been a simple butler but family."

"And he kept protecting you after arriving in this world?"

"... Not protecting. I'm not that young anymore." Sooryun drew the line at the fact that he had simply stayed by her side.

"Haha, I see. I get it. If that's your relationship... Well, it's fine."

Sungjin didn't say anything else. Frankly, he knew Dungpyung was going to do something about his unacceptable defeat, but he couldn't tell Sooryun, who considered him family, to be wary of him, as he might go on a rampage. Well, if Dungpyung considers Sooryun as his family as well, he wouldn't overstep.

Perhaps he'd contest Sungjin again. It was enough if he received it on his end.

"My sub-commander would have accepted his defeat by now. Please use the weapon we have prepared and lead a battle to victory."

"Okay. I've confirmed your secret weapon, so I'll begin preparing starting tomorrow."

"Please do so." Sooryun also decided to bet everything on Sungjin.

Sungjin similarly accepted his role, and became determined to advance towards the World Stone in order to return to his body.

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No, she was curious about a lot of other things, like his favorite color, his favorite food. What he thought of her. Whether he had folded his interests away after she had asked him to leave the bath. Things she wished to know but couldn't ask.

While she was turning in her bed, sounds started up outside. What's going on? She sat up immediately.

"The sub-commander has...!"

At the shouts outside, she immediately opened the door and stepped out. "What of the sub-commander?"

The subordinate stumbled over his words in panic, but it was clear that something bad had happened. "He took the dragon ball and headed towards the enemy..."

"I will head over." Sooryun ran out immediately.

"Something happened." Sungjin, too, headed out of his room, and they saw... the moment her sub-commander grabbed onto a flying robot with the dragon ball in his hand as he rose to the sky.

"Sub-commander! What is the meaning of this!"

"Hahahaha. This is farewell! I will finally reap the rewards of my labour." Dungpyung laughed refreshingly.

"That dragon ball is the only hope for our freedom. What are you doing!?"

"What am I doing? Hahah. I will continue onto the capital. I have already been promised a life of abundance on earth if I deliver this there. Hahahaha. I've been promised a better reward than what you could possibly offer."

"Are you... betraying me? You... you... us... me?" Sooryun's voice started wavering.

Had he been convinced to become a spy? That thought briefly passed through her mind. The other side also had the information that he was a member of the resistance. It was entirely possible that, with such information, one could be convinced by the promise of a leisurely and abundant life. But what she had failed to consider... was that out of everyone... Dungpyung would be the one to betray her. If it had been anyone else of the resistance, she would have believed it possible for them to be blinded by riches, but aside from Dungpyung being a butler and a sub-commander... for someone who she had considered family...

“How could you...!?! You... said that you were honored... to serve me!” She had trusted him.

Him.

“Betray? Honored to serve? Ha, that’s a story of the past since I could attain a high-income job due to a rich family’s lady taking me in.”

“That...” Sooryun’s body shook violently.

She had no exact memory of who Dungpyung had been in the previous world, but the feeling of warmth that had grown from his protecting her by her side had remained to that day. But all that... was because of money?

“That’s a lie! You’ve protected me even after we landed in this world, even if I wasn’t a rich lady!”

“Ahh, yes, since there were several advantages for me from the vision you’ve received from your family.”

“Everything... everything... was some calculation to you? After saying that you’d repay me for saving you...”

“Ha, my life? Yes, that was in the previous world. I do thank you for saving me from that poverty of the lower slums, but that should have been repaid by serving you for so long. You still wish to order me around?”

Sooryun fell to the ground. “It’s... It’s impossible...” Had it been her own imagination that they were like a family? Was she only some advantageous person for Dungpyung to make use of? Was their relationship something that could be abandoned so easily for gain? If they had the relationship of lady and employer, that would have been expected—if they had been strangers, that was.

But... had he really thought of their relationship as such?

“We... Didn’t we care for one another, heart-to-heart...?”

“Well, if you who had grown to be a beauty and had given me your heart, I would have thought otherwise, but, after watching you fall for another guy and leaving me, who had kept by your side for so long, it caused all of my remorse to disappear.”

“No...”

“This is farewell. I will take the dragon ball as compensation for my servitude.”

“No, not that! That’s our only hope!”

The other resistance members lamented amidst Sooryun's cries. To think our sub-commander would betray us... Had his loyalty been an act all this time?

Sungjin frowned. Was he such a person? Had it been his mistake to see Rittier in this guy? He had thought Dungpyung might cause trouble against him but not fundamentally betray Sooryun. Had he misjudged him?

Well, he hadn't been acquainted with Dungpyung for a long time, but...

Ultimately, he had been someone who could betray Sooryun.

And that had been revealed by his presence.

But this is problematic.

He didn't have much time. He was certain there wouldn't be enough time for them to create another dragon ball or the likes of it.

He looked at the back of his hand. There were six "wings of light" tattooed on it. The tattoo had appeared after he had landed in this world. And there, two wings had been folded, and a third was in the process of being folded. The other two had been completely open when I was rescuing Sooryun.

He felt it instinctively: this was the last hope the six women in Valhalla had made for him. When all six were folded, his chances of escaping would also cease.

I can't let the dragon ball escape like this. "Let me borrow this." Sungjin took the short sword of the resistance member beside him.

"This is revenge! You guys can all live in poverty here! I will gain the blessing of lord Varka! Hahahah. Be jealous of my success! Revere me! You're all below me anyways!" The robot began to rise with Dungpyung.

"Ahh, what should I do?"

Sungjin made Sooryun hold the short sword in her hands. "Can you throw this as hard as you can?"

"What? Yes, but he's too far..." The enemy was flying up, the wind was howling, and the distance was growing. The short sword was bound to fall to the wayside.

"It's okay. Throw according to the angle and timing I indicate. I'll direct you with your back, since words can't do justice."

Sungjin hugged Sooryun from the back and grabbed her wrists to lean her forward. "Yes, like this... In this angle... Now throw."

Sooryun did. The short sword flew through the air quickly.

“Ha, you thought that would hit me?” According to his words, the short sword had been thrown too high.

Suddenly, Sungjin ordered another throw. “Now, once more right here.” And the second sword was thrown accurately.

“Kuk?”

The first throw had been for predicting the wind and Sooryun’s strength, and was this the actual attack? The sub-commander had one hand on the robot and the other on the dragon ball.

In the split second, the sub-commander shouted. “Fall!” It was a human’s shout, but there was power in his words. The air vibrated with a strength of a shockwave, and a fire shot out to wind around the sword. At the same time, the robot flew up higher. “Kuku, you scared me.”

“Ah...” Sooryun rolled her feet in anxiousness. We’re too late.

“Kuk.” Suddenly, the sub-commander’s eyes flew open. Blood spilled out.

“Whe... When?”

“That’s?”

Everyone finally understood that the first sword being a test and the second being the real attack wasn’t true. Instead of what they had initially thought, Sungjin’s first sword was constructed to head towards the sub-commander’s head from the back by shooting up leftwards and falling. The second had been the dummy, and the first had been the real attack.

The robot’s speed, air resistance, gravity, the weight of the sword, Sooryun’s strength: this was an attack with everything considered.

Sungjin’s eyes saw things they didn’t, and Sungjin’s brain calculated things beyond them: everyone felt that truth again.

“Uck...” The dragon ball slid from the sub-commander’s hands. “Ah... No...” With those words, he fell to the ground.

Good. Sungjin cheered. It was according to his plan: punish the betrayer and retrieve the dragon ball. That would give him time to advance toward the central’s control tower.

“Hooray!” those who were watching shouted in exclamation the moment the dragon ball returned to them.

Whiirl.

Then, the robot dropped the sub-commander without hesitation, and a hand appeared from the middle with a huge suction. The dragon ball was sucked upwards and attached to its hand.

Kuk?

The robot flew upwards with the dragon ball in hand.

Crash.

The sub-commander shattered with a large impact.

This was far from his expected betrayal.

Although he would respawn somewhere in this world, as was the designated rule, there was no way he would receive better treatment, but that wasn't the problem.

“Sooryun! Again!” Sungjin frantically ordered Sooryun to throw another sword.

Sooryun, who failed to understand the sight before her, threw the sword instinctively. But... Sungjin could read the robot's movements. But the sword could not pierce the robot's skin.

Tatatatata.

The robot flew higher into the air as the propeller worked harder. It left with their only hope: the dragon ball.

“Kuk...” Sungjin no longer ordered anything. His brain had accurately predicted that the robot had fled to an unreachable height. The betrayer had been punished, but the dragon ball had not been retrieved.

Sooryun stared at the disappearing robot with an empty gaze. There was nothing she could do about the far dot in the sky. She couldn't even chase after it to the central where thirty million robots awaited.

Hope... disappeared...

Completely.

“Ah...” Sooryun sat as her legs lost their strength.

The other resistance members also sat powerlessly. “Our... long preparation...” Their only hope had disappeared before their own eyes. It had happened in a blink of an eye. They had not believed that their sub-commander would sell their freedom for riches and pleasure. What should we do?

It had not been five minutes since they had been celebrating the fact that they had a chance of getting through the second obstacle with Sungjin’s help. Now there was no way for them to break through the first obstacle.

“Uu... Uuu...” Even though she tried not to cry, tears sprang into her eyes. Even when she knew she couldn’t reveal a weak side of her before the resistance, she couldn’t suppress her emotions.

Everyone had worked toward this day for ten years with all their hopes on that one dragon ball. Even if they hadn’t figured out a solution for the second obstacle, they could tolerate the wait knowing they were headed in the right direction with that dragon ball in hand. But now... everything was gone.

“Ah...” It was not only Sooryun. Other resistance members also cried on the floor.

Regardless of if they were man or woman, everyone had fallen to their knees from overwhelming despair. Now they had no hope of freeing themselves. There were thirty million robots in the capital and one hundred million altogether from all the regions in this world.

Before that overwhelming number, a reckless resistance only meant their capture, beheading, and chip implantation to become a “respected citizen.”

Even if the sky was clear, their days ahead were dark.

Ahh, this is all because of me. Sooryun clawed at her chest and couldn’t raise her head. Why hadn’t she realized that there was a spy among them? Even if she hadn’t known, why hadn’t she set up countermeasures for such a person?

Everything she had worked for was gone. She had destroyed their hope.

It was then a strong and firm hand landed on her shoulder. The hand grasped her, as if to haul her up from the depths of her mind.

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Does Sungjin really have a solution for this one-against-one-hundred fight?

And this was right after they had lost their joker card that they had prepared.

If that’s true... then Sungjin’s plans and intelligence must be his magical power.

If he could make the impossible possible, that would be the real miracle.

That night, Sungjin had a secret meeting with Sooryung in a private room.

When he confirmed that there was nobody around them, Sungjin started to whisper into Sooryung's ear. When he told her something in his low voice, her eyes grew large in surprise.

They looked like lovers having a secret rendezvous, although it was only a meeting to discuss their plans.

"Do... do you really think that would be possible?" Sooryung's beautiful eyes showed mixed feelings: surprise, amazement, awe, and more...

"In our current resistance army, I would be the only one who could." Sungjin wasn't bragging; it was out of an accurate analysis. He wasn't being arrogant. It was a nearly impossible plan, and there was no one in the resistance army who could do it. "I can," said Sungjin with confidence.

"Do you... really think you can?"

"Trust me. I will make it."

If he is right, we still have hope. It would be more accurate to say that there wasn't hope, but Sungjin was creating it.

The plan that Sungjin came up with was really... something that only Sungjin could think of, and something only Sungjin would be able to make possible.

"But... you would take such a dangerous task... for us..."

When she tried to apologize, Sungjin snapped his fingers. "Don't worry. It's not for you."

"But..."

"I told you that I needed to leave this world, right?" He had to go back to everyone who was waiting for him: Ereka, Jenna, Eustasia, Rachel, and Zakiya. All the girls who had given up their comfortable lives in the continent and had joined him in this dangerous expedition. He had to go back to them—that was his responsibility and his duty.

And apart from his responsibility...

Hmph. I should punch Varka back as revenge.

Running away after one defeat was not something he would do.

“Is that so?”

“Yes. I have people who are waiting for me, and I need to get even with someone as well, so you don’t owe me anything.” They simply had the same objective of destroying the closed space.

“But... thank you. Thanks to you, we found our hope.”

“So should we do this?”

“Yes, and...”

“And?”

Sooryung was lost in her thoughts. Sungjin said he could do it but... It was a really dangerous task, and it was natural that it would be dangerous. He was trying to do something that they had been trying to do for over ten years by himself. How can I thank him enough for this...?

Although Sungjin had said he was doing it because he wanted something out of it, it seemed like he was just trying to make her feel better about the situation.

His warm heart that tried to take care of her feelings right before he would head to his possible death was so charming.

That’s right, so there’s only one thing I could do for him. She decided to give Sungjin what he wanted but what she had refused earlier. Sooryung stood up and started to unbutton her clothes. Her clothes slipped down and showed her pink underwear and her soft skin. It was her precious body that she didn’t allow anyone to have until now.

“Wait!”

While Sungjin didn’t know what to do, she leaned her head on his chest. “You don’t need to say anything.”

“That’s...”

“I know. When tonight is over, and if everything works out as we planned, we will be parted. I know that.” She knew that they were heading toward different directions, which was why she rejected Sungjin. She told herself it was because she was too jealous of the many girls he already had, only to find an excuse to be with him. She already admired and adored him. She even wanted to spend the rest of her life with him, but she couldn’t say that or admit it, because it was impossible to have it. She knew it was an impossible hope that she didn’t want to cultivate, but now, it didn’t really matter. “Before you head down this dangerous path, I want you to feel me and relax.”

“That’s...”

“Although I don’t have much experience, I will do my best to serve you, so do whatever you wish to do to me.”

It was a secret rendezvous in the middle of the night. A beautiful naked girl was offering Sungjin to do whatever he wanted to do to her.

Sungin’s young and healthy body was excited. Whatever the circumstances were, her body was amazing. It was a body that was starting to blossom and show its own unique beauty for that age. Her skin was soft, and its scent was secretive.

But Sungin suppressed his desire and stopped his hand that had been about to touch her. “No, you are too young and...”

“But don’t you know? You can assume how many years I’ve stayed here.”

She was right. This world was a prison that stopped physical time. She looked like a middle school student, but she must be older than Sungjin. At least she would be a legal adult with her age. She just looked young with a young body.

“Take me. I know you are taking the most difficult path for us, and this is the least I can offer you.” She offered her body to Sungjin, and Sungjin’s heavy breaths answered to it.

“But... still... this is not right... I shouldn’t take you... like this...”

“I wasn’t honest with you.” Sooryung almost melted Sungjin with her smile. “I want to serve you even if it’s just one night. I want you to remember me when you go back to your world. Let me have tonight with you.” It was a half excuse that she wanted to thank Sungjin with her body. She really wanted to thank him, but she also wanted to have a deep physical connection with this guy. She knew that they couldn’t be together, but she wanted to do something before they said goodbye.

I want to spend an intimate night with this noble conqueror, even if it’s only for one night.

Snap! Something inside Sungjin just snapped. A young and brave lion started to roar.

Even if it’s just for one night, I want to have the memory of being your woman.

A beautiful woman was begging him to have her. He couldn’t say no to her. He wanted to forget about everything and take her offer. He wanted her, too.

It was a private moment for them. They had fought against a strong enemy together with their lives. It was beyond right or wrong; they merely wanted to create a memory to remember each other.

Sungjin held Sooryung tightly in his arms.

“Ahh...” He hadn’t done anything, but she had already started to tremble. It was her first time being with a guy, so her body was excited with expectation but also slightly stiff with fear.

But Sungjin softly stroked her to relax her. While touching her back, Sungjin’s lips covered her lips.

“Huh... hmm...” Surprised, she closed her lips, but that only lasted for a second. Just like melting ice, Sungjin’s steamy kiss opened her mouth, and her lips opened like a full blossom. Their lips joined together, and they shared breaths. Giving everything to Sungjin, she closed her eyes.

The beast enjoyed looking at the beautiful body following his leads, but that was only the beginning.

The real conquering started to begin. The capital was there, and it wasn’t resisting. All he had to do was take it and get into it, but Sungjin stopped and released her from his arms. “Let’s keep this as our memory.”

Sooryung opened her eyes. “Why?” She looked at Sungjin slowly. “I’m not attractive enough...?”

“No way. I am really excited now.” His body couldn’t lie.

“Then why...?”

“I can’t take care of you anymore, so it’s not the right thing to just take you for one night.” He picked up her clothes to cover her. “I will remember you forever. Let’s stop here.”

“I am fine. I have no plans to ask you to take care of me.”

“I know, so I really appreciate your offer.”

A memory of one night—she loved him that much, and that made him so happy.

“You are here. Inside.” He pointed to his heart. “So, from this point on, I want to do what I think is right.” Sungjin smiled to not to make her feel insulted. “I know how much you love me, and I really like you, too, so I want you to save it until you meet someone that you would want to spend your life with.”

He definitely wanted to have her. He wanted to forget about all the things he had said and what was right or wrong to take her beautiful body that excited him so much, but desire wasn’t everything. He wanted to do something for her, rather than follow his own

physical desire, especially for this girl who had fought hard in this terrible world to find one last hope.

“Is that so?” Sooryung pulled up her clothes, thinking there was nothing she could do.

“Thank you. I will remember this night even when we are apart.”

“Me too. Whatever happens to me in the future, I will never forget this moment.”
Because you were the one who took my heart for the first time. And I really hoped we could be together.

“Then I should go now.”

“Okay. Goodnight.”

“Do what we planned?”

“Sure. I will thoroughly prepare it. And I wish you good luck on your way.”

“Thanks.”

Sungjin waved his hand and left the room. Huh. He leaned on the wall and took a deep breath.

He had pretended he had been okay, but he was actually still quite excited. It wouldn't be easy to calm down all night.

Did I do something stupid? His blood was boiling hot, and he could still taste her lips. But it was the right thing to do. He decided not to regret it. Good. This is a great memory. Now, I need to concentrate on the battle.

He had told her it would be possible, but there was no guarantee. He had to cross the dangerous bridge by himself. Nobody could help him, but he couldn't step back. Because everybody is waiting. Also, he had to get even with his enemy, and everyone in this world was counting on him.

He had so many reasons why he had to win this fight.

Level 0 Master - Chapter 124

“Ahh...” He smiled in ecstasy and happiness.

Other model citizens around him had similar facial expressions. They didn't have to think about anything else. All they had to do was follow the order and happy days and food and safety waited for them.

That's right. His reckless idea that he could do it by himself was gone.

He was just like a lion in a circus with the chip in his head. He was acting like a model citizen. What he used to be didn't matter. He followed the pain and pleasure stimulus and acted as he was ordered to.

And his chip was special. It was two-times bigger than other chips, and it wasn't black but gold. Even stronger chain of pain and pleasure was chaining him up.

Sungjin moved around the area to clean up, and each time he finished his task, the reward became bigger.

"I don't think I can anymore..." Zakiya was using all her remaining power and sweating.

They tried their best to give Sungjin the ten days that he needed and had pulled all their power into Sungjin, but they were reaching their limit. They didn't have any time left while Sungjin was captured by the chip again.

"No... not yet."

The girls stood up to gather their force to give Sungjin the time.

"Ugh..."

But there was not much time left.

The last chance was fading away while Sungjin floated between pain and pleasure.

[Sungjin has three hours left.]

Not knowing the desperate prayer of the girls, Sungjin kept cleaning areas. He moved around to clean up and arrived at area C-14.

He kneeled to pick up trash. In front of the statue of the dear leader Varka, Sungjin kneeled without any hesitation. His reckless idea that he could do it by himself was gone. He was just like a lion in a circus with the chip in his head, acting like a model citizen. What he used to be didn't matter. He was followed the pain and pleasure and acted as he was ordered to—was what everyone thought.

Suddenly, robots ran to Sungjin, who was working hard to clean up the area. "Hmph. This is it?" Sungjin's smile was not a smile that a model citizen could show. He raised his hand.

Crack.

From the chip on the back of his neck, an extreme pain went through his nervous system, but he didn't even change his face, and took out the chip from his neck. Okay. Now I need to count on my body.

Sungjin started to run. Robots tried to stop him, but he didn't stop.

Zing.

He avoided the stun gun and jumped up on the bridge handrail to step on the robot heads. I don't have time to deal with all of them.

His sharp eyesight had already analyzed the area around him, and his brilliant brain had calculated the robots' movements. He knew which way he had to go to and where he had to arrive and how to avoid the enemy's movements.

He ran and ran to arrive at the central control system. It was not very far from where he had started.

[Access denied.]

[Force eviction.]

Pff, you are loud, but this is the most important place for you. so you can't use heavy firearms.

They were trying to stop him with stun guns, but that was not enough to stop him.

While...

But I can use whatever I want to.

Sungjin took out little marbles from his jacket.

He made these marbles with the remaining power when the dragon ball was gone. It was a tiny amount of energy, but it was enough to do what he wanted to do.

He threw it to the center of the tower, the gigantic computer that controlled everything. It was a mixture of a machine and a magic square that looked completely different from the computer Sungjin used to have on earth, but that didn't change anything.

Kaboom!

It was destroyed by a massive explosion, and everything in the city was paralyzed.

“You made it.” Sooryun was relieved looking at the scene from far away. It was a reckless plan that no one but Sungjin was able to try, but he made it. She was impressed again thinking of the plan that Sungjin had told her the other night.

With our limited force, there’s no way we can go through the enemy army by force alone. You are right.

Yes, and we don’t even have any objects or buildings we could use.

Sungjin could make a plan to defeat the enemy that had more force than him, but to get past the whole army to destroy the central control system was impossible.

Right. So there’s only one way to do this. I will sneak in by myself.

What? That is impossible.

Why?

There are layers and layers of encircling net by the enemy. There’s no way to get in discretely.

I’m not going to get in discreetly but openly, so it’s okay.

Huh?

I will pretend that I’m on their side with a chip in my head to get in.

Is... is that?

Of course it wouldn’t be easy because even with the chip they wouldn’t just let me get into the center.

Correct.

So I will start from the outskirts. I will try to find out the accessible areas with the chip and then find out what kind of work could lead me to the center to change the chip with the person who is doing that work.

Would it be... possible?

I’ve already checked quite a bit. I wasn’t wasting my time.

When he had removed the chip, he had checked if it would reactivate when he put it back in, and then he had checked if his chip would work on other people. He hadn’t destroyed the chip that was the symbol of his humiliation because he wanted to collect

maximum information in order to fight back. Even in his defeat, he thoroughly observed his enemy to find its weakness. That was Sungjin.

Even though... if you put the chip back in...

I know. In general, I would be controlled by the chip, and if I try to resist, I will fall down in pain, but now I know how to trick it. I've been studying it.

Study... you mean... you tried with your body...

Yeah. So I found out that even if I remember the real cause, the chip can't sense it if I don't try to remind it. I will change my identity as someone who can get in to the center and get in.

He would pretend that he obeyed the chip's pain and pleasure to counterstrike it at the critical moment.

Easier said than done.

Sungjin was the first one who had ripped his chip out of himself. Even for Sungjin, it wouldn't be an easy task to let others control his thoughts, but he was ready to take all those hardships by himself.

But... still, the center wouldn't let any chips get in.

That is a possibility, so from that point...

Sungjin smiled.

I will use my physical power and improvise.

His smile was too confident for one person who was about to fight against an army of three hundred thousand soldiers.

"That's what you promised before you left." Sooryun looked up. "Now I will follow you. Everyone, go through now!"

"Yes!"

When the chip was paralyzed, the army of three hundred thousand soldiers that were controlled by the chip became panicked. All they had known was to obey the order, but now the central system was destroyed, and they didn't know what to do—no, there was a reaction to being free from the control, and they started to destroy each other with explosive emotions.

It was literally hell.

One person paralyzed a whole army.

To go through the paralyzed army wasn't even something that could be called a frontal breakthrough. They were just running through the road that Sungjin created.

Sooryun was leading the resistance. I should get to him faster. She had to reach Sungjin, who opened the path by himself. That was her duty.

She was wearing classic attire while holding a lute in her hand. Her steps were graceful. She looked like she was simply walking, but it was her skill called "Cloud Walking." It was a mystical skill that didn't create shock waves even while breaking the speed of sound.

She was getting closer and closer every step faster than anyone else.

Sooryun was the first one to arrive to where Sungjin was. "Sungjin."

"There you go."

"Sorry to make you wait so long."

"So you arrived at the perfect timing. Where are the rest?"

"They couldn't move as fast I could."

"Right." Sungjin looked at the resistance army running as fast as they could. He originally planned to get into the final closed space that had the World Stone in it with five of the resistance, including himself and Sooryun, but... it seemed the system had a self-recovery function. He saw the paralyzed tower begin to recover and the paralyzed robots start to move a little. Maybe there was a separate operating system after an emergency, or a backup system by region. The only clear thing was that it was not over yet.

Huh, are we running out of time? Then he didn't have time to waste. Sungjin made his decision. "Sooryun."

"Yes."

"We are going in."

"Just the two of us?"

"Trust me."

Sungjin held her hand and jumped into the final defense line.

Sooryun felt her body freeze for a second, but she looked at Sungjin and jumped in with her eyes closed.

[Challenger entered.]

Sungjin heard the familiar voice of Valkyrie.

[The fight starts in a minute. Every participant needs to enter in one minute. If not, the fight will start with the current participants.]

“Do you really think... just the two of us can defeat five guardian robots?”

Sooryun was trembling. It was a fight for five people, not two. That was what they had planned and how they had trained for the battle.

Of course, it was Sungjin and Sooryun who were the main fighting force, but the other three were supposed to lure, recon, and support them with items. Although they were not the main fighting force, it was important to have support that could lure and recon. It was common sense even for the AoS gamers from Earth. When there was a five-on-five fight, it was better to have some low-level members than not have them at all.

When it all fell apart, Sungjin’s plan fell apart as well. She was scared.

“Hmm. I understand your concerns.” Sungjin pulled her and made her lean on his chest.

“Oh...” Sooryun was able to hear his strong heartbeat, and Sungjin’s strong chest strongly supported her.

“Relax. Fear can be the biggest reason for your defeat.”

“You are right.”

“Don’t worry. Trust me.” Sungjin smiled and cheered her up.

“But... it is just two of us... Your original plan had three others to help us...”

“Yeah, you are right. We can’t use that plan anymore, but I’m prepared for this.”

It was an invasion operation to the center of the enemy force—he didn’t expect everything to go as planned.

“Do you have anything else?”

“I will show you soon. I don’t have time to explain, so just trust me.”

What did you prepare? Sooryun's heart started to pound again with expectation and curiosity. I wanted to get to know him better... Make it or not, they would be parted with the sharp memory of their first kiss. This is a strange feeling.

Destruction of the World Stone and everyone's freedom—this was the moment they had been waiting for.

It was natural to have fear over the last challenge that she had to face, but she had to be happy about this chance, but she felt sad because she had to say goodbye to Sungjin.

If only I could be with him... But they couldn't be together. They belonged to different worlds.

So this was the last moment that she would have with him: fighting for their world.

But she couldn't stop. She wanted to go as far as she could to not have any regrets when she later looked back at this moment.

I will follow you.

Level 0 Master - Chapter 125

"We can... earn some time... but would it be ok?"

"Of course. Trust me."

But while we collect our items, they would also collect theirs. They would become even stronger, but Sooryun didn't argue. She decided to go all in with Sungjin. There was no reason to argue with him but to trust him that he had an idea.

They both protected the turret from the robots.

A two-on-one fight was not easy, but Sooryun was holding on.

T-ring.

Everytime she played her lute a mud minion disappeared.

Ding ding.

"The Music of the Half Moon." When she activated her strong skill, a half-moon shaped sound wave sliced-up the soldiers in its range.

Now I've earned a bit of a time.

And she was able to collect a little more crystals, but she became more and more anxious.

I can keep them out by killing the soldiers to stop the robots jumping into the turret but... how long will this last?

[Heat laser from the Sky.]

A robot started to shoot heat lasers with a heavy mechanical sound, and the soldiers from her side burned in a second.

She was collecting crystals, but the robots were collecting just as much.

After time, they would strengthen their armor or maybe activate an item to neutralize the turret.

Then what will we do? Although the scariest thing is something else: is Sungjin prepared for all those possibilities?

And then the time came. Two robots walked in to destroy the turret. AI system in the robot calculated that it was possible.

“The Music of the Half Moon.” She threw half-moon shaped sound waves to stop them.

[Laser Net Shield.]

An energy shield appeared above the robots, and her wave was neutralized by the shield. It was an equally strong power.

Ugh... my ultimate skill “the Heavenly Music of the Full Moon” would be the only thing that would work.

But she was not sure when she had to divide the power for two robots, if it would be possible to destroy them all by breaking the armor and the shield. If that would work, that would be great but if not, the robots would kill her.

I need to risk my life here.

But then, she heard Sungjin’s order.

Are you reaching your limit? Give up the turret and come back to the base camp.

She didn’t understand, because if she gave up the turret, that would make the situation worse, but Sooryun decided to follow Sungjin’s order. She didn’t have any other solutions.

Sungjin and Sooryun came back to the base camp. “Did you collect enough crystals?”

“Yes. I have enough to activate my Heavenly Yueqin. What about you?”

“I collected enough. Now it’s time to fight.”

“So we should fight against them all here.”

And she was right. Five robots walked in to the upper path all together. The robots were three meters tall and laser beams came from their chests while they held weapons in each hand. The armor looked strong, and it was covered in shields.

And there were five of them. This was the situation that Sooryun had been worried about. She was capable of fighting a one-on-one fight, but this was a five-on-two fight.

Maybe Sungjin could fight one or two but... what about the rest? She didn’t know what kind of hidden card Sungjin was trying to use.

It seemed that he was about to show her but it was a desperate situation that no plan could really work.

“Are you scared?”

“To be honest with you, yes I am.”

“Don’t worry. I have the key for the victory already.”

“Is that so?”

“I will show you.” Sungjin stretched out his right hand. The show was about to begin. “Come. Dawn Bringer.” He was using crystals to activate his artifact: The Holy Sword of Halt. It was a bringer of the dawn that he had gotten by defeating the Holy Pope Pedrian.

The legend showed its power beyond the time and space by appearing on his hand.

It was the strong weapon that helped him to unify the continent, but also, in the beginning, this was the sword of the light that the top angle had used to stop the chaos. It was able to stop abnormal phenomenon by touching it with its blade.

“Ha. It is a world made with the power from Valhalla, it could be a seperated world but it can’t be a different world from Valhalla,” said Sungjin with a grin.

“Sooryun.”

“Yes?”

“Let me use your power.” Sungjin reached out his left hand. “Stat Exchange.”

“Huh?”

Sooryun’s outfit became a normal one while Sungjin’s outfit changed. A flow of energy moved from Sooryun to Sungjin and made Sungjin’s outfit change into blue armor. It was an armor of oriental warriors. It looked a bit dangerous because no part of it was protected by heavy metal plate, but that only seemed so when just looking at its appearance. It was knitted by strings that contained power so that Sungjin was able to move freely while augmenting his physical function to maximum capability.

Sooryun’s class was the warrior.

Chapter 6

The warrior class had the highest physical abilities among the six classes. The warrior didn’t have high resistance power like the knight, but its physical power was the top and the best class for the balanced physical fight.

Sungjin took her power and stepped forward with light steps, but with his steps the ground shook.

“Now, come. But you should do your best.” Sungjin looked confident in front of five monstrous robots, and even provoked them. Although they were just machines that could not be provoked, the robots ran toward him as programmed.

“Sungjin...”

“Hide yourself in a safe place,” said Sungjin, and he ran toward the robots.

He ran toward the robots that were five times bigger than him with just a sword. Is he being reckless?

But Sungjin didn’t look like he was overcoming fear and stepping forward.

He rather looks like...

Sooryun looked at him from behind.

What she felt from Sungjin wasn’t courage. It was... It was rather... Spirit. He looked like a lion running toward five sheep.

But how? Although he had her power, it was a five-on-one fight. Is this an easy one for him?

The first robot clashed with Sungjin, and for a brief amount of time, it was a one-on-one fight. Sungjin read that the heat laser would come from the robot's chest, and stepped aside to avoid it.

The robot turned around to follow him, but Sungjin had already calculated that, so he lowered his body to get into the robot.

To stop Sungjin, the robot's two hands stabbed Sungjin one by one: a spear in one hand and a sword in the other. Sungjin's sword stopped the spear first and then twisted the course of power to stop robot's sword with it at the same time. And at the blink of an eye when robot's sword and spear stopped together, Sungjin's sword stabbed the engine of the robot, but there was an energy shield to protect the engine. However, it was meaningless before the Holy Sword of Halt. Sungjin pierced the robot's armor and its engine.

Zing, zing.

The first robot lost its power.

You are amazing. Sooryun, impressed, looked at the scene.

Piercing armor with a single blow wasn't a "skill," but it almost looked like one. He used the power from his body's acceleration and used the spin of his arm to make it stronger. Finally, he used the attacking power from the robot to maximize his own attack power.

That is not what we call skill in our world but... She was a warrior, so she understood the difference between "skill" and pure martial arts, so she was deeply impressed.

In the meantime, the remaining four robots surrounded Sungjin and started to attack him. The two on the left and right started their attack first with their spears. Then, two swords started to attack him horizontally.

But... "Pff." Everything was as he calculated. He moved fast to stop suddenly and moved shapely to suddenly show a smooth movement.

Sungjin's movement was free as the wind and looked like the movement of water, but it was as fierce as lightning and strong as rock.

He didn't stay with one kind of movement. His movement didn't have a predictable rhythm: it was free movement of a sword.

A sharp spear cut the air to attack him, but Sungjin was already out of its way, having read its movement in advance.

Sungjin used the robot's attack for his counterattack with his sword. The speed of his physical movement was added to the speed of the sword to create a destructive power that was two times bigger than what he could make with his own muscles.

He easily destroyed the engine, and pulled out his sword and turned around. Another spear was attacking him Very predictable. He smiled at the huge robot that was attacking him.

"It is stronger and faster than a human, but its movement has the clear pattern of AI." It wasn't difficult to react to such predictable movements when he knew how to read them and how to counter them.

Sungjin's sword danced, sometimes beautifully but sometimes sharply. He made minimum movements, but his every move was an art.

Broken robots started to pile up.

Humans would have run away at the sight of such a dreadful opponent, but the robots were simply following a program.

Four robots were dismantled and fell down on the ground. There was only one left. It seemed like the fight was over; he had defeated a joint attack of five machines, and now there was only one left.

Sungjin ran to the last robot. The robot aimed at Sungjin to shoot its laser.

Sungjin planned to avoid it by approaching it at a slightly different angle, but the next moment, Sungjin realized something wasn't right.

It is different.

The way it was aiming was slightly different, and Sungjin was able to see that, so he threw his body out of the way, and that was the right choice.

Bing.

The laser tore up the ground. "Lucky bastard." The head of the robot opened to show a familiar face.

It was Dungpyong.

Through the open gap, Sungjin could see the lower body of Dungpyong.

He had become half-cyborg. His body was connected to machines that linked to the robot's control system.

Sungjin stood up quickly with a stable pose. “Pff. Good to see you again. You look quite different now.”

Sungjin had already heard that this world was a closed world where a dead soul would be resurrected, but he didn't expect Dungpyong to mutilate his body in order to come back as half-robot.

“I did it all to defeat you.”

“I like your spirit, but I don't think I like your methods.”

“If I can kill you, everything else doesn't matter!”

Level 0 Master - Chapter 126

“This is it!” Dungpyong threw his final blow. I can win. I can win against this guy. I will defeat Sungjin to get what I want.

“Sungjin!”

When Sooryun tried to jump in, Sungjin stopped her. “Yes, this is it.” He threw the blood from his arm onto the robot's visual sensor.

“What?” The shield was activated to stop the blood, but Sungjin's sword cut the shield to open the way to spread the blood onto the sensor.

The blood covered Dungpyong's sight. “You!” But that moment, Sungjin had already attacked the central system of the robot, and his sword stabbed the engine.

Zing.

The robot made broken movements before stopping and eventually exploding. “Ugh!” Dungpyong's screams filled the air.

“The fight's over.” Sungjin put back his sword and his stat returned to normal.

“Sungjin... you made it.” Sooryun couldn't stop looking at him in surprise. He defeated five robots... with one sword... and not on a battlefield with a narrow path but in an open space where the robots could siege him.

Although four of the robots had been operated by AI, Dungpyong had not been an easy opponent to fight against, but Sungjin had made it.

Wow... You are amazing. She held her hands together while her eyes shined. She looked like a fangirl at a K-pop idol's concert. Wow... that was really amazing. That was the reason why Sungjin didn't care that it was a two-on-five fight.

Sooryun was not able to fight against five, but when Sungjin had her power, he was able to fight against all of them.

“That’s it.” Sungjin cleaned up his sword, stepping on the remains of the five robots. A drop of sweat ran down his neck.

That was... amazing. Sooryun’s heart pounded hard. She hadn’t been able to take her eyes off him during his fight. She was a warrior as well, so she knew her limit, but Sungjin was above and beyond the limit anyone could possibly reach. It almost gave her ecstasy to see something unimaginable become real.

Each line of his muscle that had showed while he used his sword was attractive. Ahh, what should I do?

She was already into Sungjin, but he kept showing more attractive sides of himself. She wanted to be happy just with the memory of their first kiss, but he was making her want more.

She almost screamed like a girl who had seen her favorite star, but she stopped herself, thinking of her social status. You are such a conqueror of not only the continent but of a girl’s heart.

Her head told her that they needed to say goodbye. There wasn’t much she could do, even if she loved him. She knew that the memory of that one night was the only thing she would keep...

Ahh, I really want to know more about you, Sungjin.

She wanted to know his ambition, what he would do to be on the top of the world. She wanted to stay with him longer and know him more.

I want to know him. I want to be with him, and I want him to want me as well.

She didn’t know how to deal with her feelings.

“Now it’s over. Relax.” Sungjin’s voice was calm, and that put her back down on her feet.

There’s... no way... She was sad. “Can I ask you a question?”

“Sure?”

“If you had this much power, why didn’t you tell me?” It wasn’t a complicated plan that he couldn’t have explained quickly.

“If I told you that I would fight against five robots, I knew that you would try to take at least one out to help me,” Sungjin answered with a grin. He looked like a conqueror, but he also looked like a bad boy.

“So... You didn’t want me to struggle...”

He was thinking ahead.

Even if I go back to my world, I will never be able to forget you. I will remember you forever.

As my first love.

[Team Blue won.]

The Valkyrie made the announcement.

[The connection to the World Stone is opening.]

That was the reward for the winner of this battlefield. He could decide if he wanted to destroy this world or keep it.

The winner was able to decide the destiny of this little world that Kaiser Varka had created with his heroic power.

Chapter 8

A ray of light came down to the center of the battlefield, and with the light, the ground opened up. A pure white stone appeared in front of Sooryung and Sungjin. It was a disc with miniatures of the cities of this world on it. It looked just like this world.

“So this is the World Stone.”

“Yes. If you break it, Varka can’t keep this world anymore, and we can go back to our own worlds.”

“Okay.”

They looked at each other. It was time to say goodbye.

“I will remember you, even when I go back to my world.”

“I will remember you as my precious teammate.”

“Your precious... teammate...” Sooryun repeated in a low voice. I get it. That’s who I am.

She had tried, but Sungjin hadn't made a move, and now they had to say goodbye as teammates. She was sad, but there wasn't much she could do. She was in love with a guy who was a strong conqueror but also a nice guy who wouldn't play her for a one-night stand.

"So, should we destroy it?" When Sungjin raised his sword, Varka's image came up from the World Stone.

"The one who came here, whoever you are, you did a great job." It was a recording Varka had planted in the World Stone when he had created it. "Now you can decide if you want to keep this world or break this world by destroying the World Stone."

"Pff. Is this the World Stone's last words?"

"But think twice. You might not like my order, but this is the best world for humans, who are weak and stupid."

"You are talking too much." Sungjin laughed. "So, Let's do this."

"Ok."

Sungjin struck it with his sword and Sooryun played the lute. When both attacks hit the stone, the World Stone cracked, and a backflow of energy came from the fissure.

"Ugh." A bit of reaction was expected, but that was not what surprised Sungjin. This is...

The truth of the world came to Sungjin when the energy flow started to cover the whole world.

When people were covered by the black energy flow, they started to change their shape. They became chunks of revengeful spirits, and started to gather to the center. They looked like condensed dark clouds, and more and more started to gather.

"No!"

"I don't want to leave this world!"

They screamed. They didn't just want the soma from the chip. They didn't just want to live their peaceful lives.

When Sungjin learned the truth of this world, he was able to understand that they had more desperate reasons.

This was why.

Apart from Sungjin, all the souls in this world were from the Earth that Varka had come from. They were living under tyranny.

They had no freedom at all under brutally strict order and they couldn't even think of criticizing the tyrant. The tyrant was the only one who had wealth, while the others had to live from hand to mouth, but they started to learn about wealth and freedom from other countries, until people finally started a revolution. There was support from the outside, and the revolution was successful. They kicked out the tyrant and... a civil war started. Tribal conflict erupted as soon as they were free of the tyrant. They started killing each other during the civil war, and the country became just like what Varka had told Sungjin when they first met.

Neighbors became enemies. They raped each others' daughters, mothers and wives... They caused people to become orphans.

They started to regret the revolution, thinking it had been better when they had been under the tyrant's rule. They thought that when they had been under tyranny, they never had to worry about food or if they could survive another day, but now they had to kill each other to survive, and when they died, their souls fell into an endless hell, locked in an endless loop where they had to keep killing each other. It was a loop that they couldn't run away from.

But there was salvation. It was a white silver light. It was the light of salvation that Varka created with order. Varka took every soul and sealed them into this new world under an absolute order. It was a distorted world, but it was a desperate form of salvation. Now that this world was falling apart, the revengeful spirits had lost their bodies from this world. When this world was destroyed, they had to go back to hell, where they had to keep killing each other.

Revengeful spirits started to get on Sooryun.

"Ugh." Her beautiful skin became black. The faces of spirits came out from all over her body to blame her.

"Is it you?"

"You are trying to put us back where we were?"

"This b*tch is the leader of the resistance army."

"I want the order back!"

"Put us back in the system of Varka!"

"He is the only savior for us!"

To give freedom to humans: the resistance army tried to do the right thing, but what if humans wanted to return the freedom they got?

Moreover...

It was because of desperate reasons...

Level 0 Master - Chapter 127

That was the free country that the people who were now locked in this world created. There was Sungjin, who was a clear exception, but the rest were like that.

“This world is clearly a prison that controls everything and everyone, but do you really think this is worse than the chaos where there was nothing but thieving, raping, and killing? Choose. If you want to destroy this Stone of Closed Space or put it back.”

“I...”

Sooryun fell down on her knees. Now she could remember. I was... I was...

She had died in the middle of the chaotic hell... and her death had been miserable. She had ended up imprisoned in this world with other vengeful spirits.

The place she was at before her death was a hospital made from tents. It didn't really look like a hospital. She was a doctor who had gone there to take care of refugees, but soldiers had suddenly walked in, and she had tried to stop them.

What is going on?

She had known about the serious conflict between tribes, so she hadn't tried to use her humanitarian methods, but found a better way.

She divided her team in two, and she built-up a refugee hospital in the middle of “Algal” tribe, while sending the other team to the “Tara” tribe to build a hospital there. That was the best that she could do while those two tribes fought against each other, and it was the way that she found that considered her goal to help them and the situation of the tribes, but... her devastating end came from a different source.

“It's them. They are the cause of this epidemic!”

In that country, shamanism was still the biggest faith. The shaman pointed to the doctors who had come from the outside to help them as the cause of the epidemic because doctors were everywhere because of the endless death and dead bodies, but the truth was that the doctors were only trying to go where people were suffering because of the epidemic.

The stupid and conflicted country had a democratic revolution only to end up with... its own destruction.

So she died there like that, and the civil war and epidemic never stopped.

“Ah... ugh...” Sooryun started to scream from the powerful curses and pain from the vengeful spirits. Is this punishment for my wrongdoing? Did I do something wrong?

She had only wanted to make a world where everyone could have freedom and rights, but maybe that was wrong. Maybe Varka was right. Maybe it was a harmful wish. Her goal to set these people free only pushed them back to hell.

It broke her heart that she was pushing them into hell even though she had tried to help them. Why didn't I... let it be as it was... It's my fault. I destroyed their peaceful lives. She started to cry in despair and regret. I shouldn't have destroyed the World Stone. Varka's tyranny had been salvation for the people in this world.

This pain must be the punishment for my wrongdoings.

Sungjin had to decide now. What should I do? Should I leave this world as it is for Sooryun and for the people who think this world is their salvation?

It would make these people peaceful, at least on the surface, but then... what about the people who were waiting for him? His precious girls. People who counted on him for their future and Sungjin's own dreams.

He felt bad for these people, but he had already started to play the game, where he couldn't take even one step back.

So he had to decide now... Should I step on them and go forward? Should I ignore Sooryun and the vengeful spirits and destroy this world? They needed to deal with their own karma.

What would he do?

“It's because of you... because of you!” The next moment, someone jumped on him, blaming him.

Fighting back the sword that tried to cut him, Sungjin looked at his opponent. It was Dungpyong. He looked like a total mess. He had lost his left arm and his left shoulder. He had holes all over his body, and his blood vessels were tangled with wires. It was almost unbelievable that he could stand up, but he kept trying to attack Sungjin. Dungpyong's spirit was already beyond his physical abilities.

“Because of you... my lady...!” Dungpyong had felt it when he first saw Sungjin, that he could enable the lady to reach the World Stone, which would only make Sooryun find out the truth that she was better for not knowing.

This world was a distorted paradise, but this was the salvation for Sooryun.

Until Sungjin showed up.

The hope for freedom, which was impossible to achieve, was a little idea that Dungpyong had let her have to not feel boredom. A daily, peaceful life was a good life that he wanted to keep for Sooryun, so he had tried to stop her plan, first by stopping Sungjin, then by becoming a traitor. Even if she hated him for it, he wanted to keep her safe.

She was the most precious thing... She was the only one who had saved him when he was abandoned... she was his family... He wanted to keep her safe, but now they had ended up here.

“Without you... we can go back!” Dungpyong tried to attack Sungjin, screaming. He knew that none of his blows would hit Sungjin, but he didn’t stop. He didn’t care if his soul was burning away, he just wanted to save the lady, and killing Sungjin was the only way to do it.

The World Stone was not yet destroyed. If they let it heal for a while, it would recover from its crack and everything would become as it was before.

I can erase some parts of my lady’s memory and plant the strongest chip on this guy’s head and lock him in a faraway city. This is a distorted paradise, but at least it would be better than looking at Sooryun in pain, suffering by vengeful spirits in hell!

“I understand.” Sungjin avoided Dungpyong’s attack and tripped him, and then cut Dungpyong’s leg joint to stop him.

“Ugh. What do you know! For her... are you going to give up leaving this world?”

Sungjin looked at the guy who couldn’t move but who was still glaring at Sungjin in anger. “No.” Sungjin’s answer was firm.

Dungpyong was angry that he couldn’t do anything against this conqueror who would never change his mind.

“Sure.”

Sungjin didn’t try to use Sooryun for his needs. He didn’t know the secret of this world. But at the last moment, he could make his choice, because he wouldn’t give up

everything and everyone who was waiting for him for Sooryun, who was just a brief encounter in this world. So I want to stop it.

“Ugh...” I can’t stop this? This world is going to fall apart and my lady will fall back into hell again? I can’t let that happen, even if I need to give up my life to stop it!

Sungjin pushed him down with his sheathed sword. “Stop moving. I didn’t answer you yet.”

“What?”

“The world to go back to and this world: your question was what I will do. Let me show you. This is my answer,” said Sungjin, leaving Dungpyong in order to approach Sooryun and hold her tightly.

“Sungjin...” In Sungjin’s arms, Sooryun cried in pain and asked, “Did I do something wrong? So... they are punishing me now?”

“No, you did nothing wrong.”

“But... ”

“Your dream was not a wrong one.”

“But the result of it is bad. People became more miserable. This world is... really... really... so these people... blame... me... like this...” She was no longer the graceful lady; she looked like a little girl crying in pain.

“Yes, but sometimes failed idealism hurts many people.” Sungjin didn’t deny the fact. The world wasn’t easy enough to get a good result when people act on good will. So to change the world to a better place, Sungjin needed much more than good will and courage; he needed wisdom. It was a difficult thing to do, but it was his responsibility as a leader. “So I will take the responsibility from now on.”

“Huh?”

“I’m not going to make your wish to destroy this world to free everyone become a wrong one.”

She had joined him in good will, but the sin that had been accumulating in this world was distorting their good will.

Now it’s my job. “Listen! You shouldn’t blame her,” Sungjin shouted to the vengeful spirits. “You should blame me!”

The vengeful spirits started to look at Sungjin. “She was simply following my order! I was the one who challenged the one who created this world, and I’m the one who’s trying to defeat him!” Endless vengeful spirits were ready to attack him, but Sungjin was cool. “If you want to stay in this world, I’m the one you should kill! Not this girl!”

When Sungjin finished his words, vengeful spirits started to move and leave Sooryun’s body to jump on Sungjin. “Ugh.” A torrent of vengeful spirits covered Sungjin. From head to toe, vengeful spirits bit him. It was the scream of spirits that didn’t want to go to hell again.

Huh. Sungjin didn’t kneel, instead taking the pain. So this is the price I need to pay.

It was the price he had to pay for breaking the ideal world that Varka had created. The victims created from destroying its power stood against him, but Sungjin was ready to take them all.

“Yeah, blame me. But listen.” It was a fight of a soul against other souls. They didn’t need any power. It was a fight of will. It didn’t matter for Sungjin that it was his will against a few thousand souls. He was trying to create a new history for the world. There was nothing he couldn’t handle. “But what you really want is to live in a peaceful world controlled by the chip?”

The forced order and peace might have been better than the hell where they had to kill each other just to survive. They just accepted the less terrible thing, but... People always wanted to have something better, to live in a better place. It was almost impossible that they were truly happy with their comfort without freedom.

“This world can’t be the ideal world that you want to live in.”

“It is better than hell.”

“I don’t want to go back to that place.”

When the vengeful spirits screamed out, Sungjin answered, “I’m not saying you have to go back! I am telling you to move forward!”

“How?”

“I will take you there,” the conqueror of the continent promised the vengeful spirits.

His soul opened a world in their minds. Sungjin showed everyone the history of the continent that he had made.

Level 0 Master - Chapter 128

“Because everyone is their own owner in this world!” It sounded like a natural thing to pursue, but also an impossible dream. “Democracy! Everyone is their own owner, and the system of the world is decided by a vote of the people. That is the goal of this world.”

Democracy was a relatively new concept in the long history of human beings, and not many cases had worked as they were supposed to.

“Impossible.”

“That is absurd.”

“I won’t be tricked by this.”

“Yeah, it looks impossible, but it is possible,” Sungjin said.

In Valhalla, it wouldn’t be possible in a day, because in Valhalla, only the heroes had the power to control the world. Sungjin was able to be the ruler, but he couldn’t make people have their own rights and have ownership over their lives.

“Through education, we improve their abilities, and I will change this world by becoming an Arc Master. I will make a world where they can become what they want to be not by the class they are born in but by their hard work and effort to have better abilities and achievements!”

That was the world Sungjin wanted to create as an Arc Master.

Another image came up. It was a scene that only Sungjin was able to show, because he was from Earth.

He started to show the democracies that were established in the world called earth. It still had some problems, but there was a form of democracy there. Normal people had sovereign power and power to create the legal system. Everyone had chances to develop their abilities and achieve their dreams, while those who failed would have a safety net to try again. There were rich and poor, strong and weak, but that difference didn’t mean the weaker ones couldn’t have their dignity.

Republic of Korea, where Sungjin used to live, and other developed countries: the image showed these countries one by one, until it finally showed the ideal world that Sungjin was trying to create. “This is the world that I’ve been making, and the world I’m trying to create. See?”

They were just words. They didn’t mean anything. However, Sungjin was someone who would keep his promises. He wasn’t trying to show a beautiful fantasy. He was creating history by fighting against strong enemies.

The vengeful spirits started to calm down. "Are you... really going to make this happen? Will you bring me to somewhere that is not the chaos of disorder or oppressive order... but a free and peaceful place?" A world not with the absolute order that Varka had created, but a world that empowered people so that they could think and act by their own will, but still a world where people didn't need to worry about how to survive.

"I promise."

The guy who had started from level 0 to conquer the continent but had become locked in this world but had broken all the chains to come here.

"Please help us."

"I trust you."

Vengeful spirits started to go to sleep one by one, and when they started to calm down, they started to become a huge shape behind Sungjin to make a shape of six branches.

Sooryun watched it in silence. In her eyes, it looked like Sungjin was the king of the light standing in front of six shapes of darkness to take a few thousand vengeful spirits under him.

Ah...? When the vengeful spirits had gone, Sooryun glanced at the six completed wings, but that was just for a moment. Soon, the six completed wings were gone, and Sungjin took a deep breath.

"Okay. Now everyone go to sleep." Sungjin took all the weight of the vengeful spirits from Varka's world under him and promised them a new world. "I will give you a salvation that is different from the one that the Kaiser of White Silver gave you." Then, Sungjin looked at Sooryun. "I will save you and everyone else, but in a different way from Varka."

"Sungjin Oppa..." Without knowing to, Sooryun called Sungjin Oppa.

"So relax. Your dream won't be a broken ideological daydream. I will make your dream the ground for a better future." You don't need to regret the time you spent with me to break the Stone of Closed Space. Sungjin touched her back gently to tell her to stop crying.

"Yes, Sungjin."

"Oh, well..." Sungjin smiled. She was cute when she called me Sungjin Oppa, but my adventure with her is over now.

With Sooryun in his arms, Sungjin looked at Dungpyong. See? This is my answer.

Is it... Dungpyong's eyes became softer. If that is my lady's wish...

"So I guess this is goodbye. You go back to your world, and I go back to my world." When we break the World Stone, we will be apart. I will go back to Valhalla to challenge Varka again with my team, and you will go back to your world.

"Yes..."

When she showed sadness in her eyes, Sungjin reached out his hand. "Or do you want to come with me?"

"Huh? Why?"

"Because I'm worried about you."

The world she came from was in chaos because the democratic revolution had gone wrong and she was killed in the middle of it, so even if she went back, she had her soul but not her body. Maybe she would be born in a good place, but nobody knew for sure. He had taken care of the vengeful spirits who had tried to drag her down to the endless hell, but he still didn't feel it would be safe for her.

"I'm not a Kaiser yet." Because he wasn't a Kaiser, Sungjin didn't have the privilege of having an ability to create a world like Varka did. "But soon I will." Because I will make it. "Then, I think I would feel more comfortable letting you stay in the world of my creation." He promised her to help her, so if he put her in danger, everything would become meaningless.

"Would it be ok?"

Sungjin smiled, and answered, "I already took a few thousand vengeful spirits without trouble. I don't think taking one more little girl will trouble me."

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

"Haha. Sorry. But what do you think? If you miss your home, there's nothing I can do..." If you don't have a reason that you have to go back... "Would you like to come with me and stay in the world that I will create?"

He was able to come here because of her help, and with her help, Sungjin was able to escape this world. He had to go back to Valhalla, the world where he would be the conqueror of the world, but the world that she had to go back to was the endless hell controlled by Varka's power. He didn't feel comfortable letting her go back to that world.

"The world of Sungjin's creation..."

"Would you like to make that world your second home?"

Sooryun starred at Sungjin's hand for a while. "You promised that you would create a world where vengeful spirits could settle down, right?"

"Yes, and that was a real promise."

"And you will make a place for me in that world?"

"Sure."

"There's one more thing I want to ask you."

"What's that?"

"Let me help you create that world."

"Huh?"

"I appreciate your promise that you will help me to make my dreams come true, but I don't want to simply take things from you," Sooryun continued with a smile. "It was what we decided to do, so I want to take the responsibility with you. That's what I want."

I will forget about the world that would be different from the one I came from, and I will not regret any of this. I will go forward with Sungjin, holding his hand.

I knew you were my destiny.

What she felt was right. She couldn't even remember the world that she had come from, and now she didn't want to go back to the world that she couldn't remember... Her heart told her that she had to create a new home next to Sungjin... There was no reason to resist it. She knew she would regret it if she didn't go with Sungjin. Let's be honest.

"Good. Sure. It's the result we created together, so let's do this together," Sungjin promised.

He knew that the girls would comment on it if he brought a new girl, but he had to take her. Sooryun was a new partner he had found and someone he had to take care of. So this is my responsibility in this world.

Change the world and save everyone—that was the goal that he had set for becoming an Arc Master, so he had to cherish every relationship he found on his way. He couldn't ignore the people he met on his way.

A few thousand vengeful spirits and a girl—he had to take everyone and go forward.

When promised, Sooryun took away her hairpin. Her hair dropped like a waterfall, and she looked even younger.

“Huh?”

“You said you like the natural look, so I will keep it like this.” She was following the taste of the man that she decided to follow.

“Lead me.” Sooryun held Sungjin’s hand.

“Then let’s destroy the World Stone.”

“Yes.”

They held the sword together to hit the stone to destroy the World Stone completely.

Then, time and space broke apart piece by piece. The Universe. Everything that was holding this world started to scatter. Buildings became sand, and the ground disappeared. It was a grand scene when a world started to disappear, and in the middle of it, Dungpyong looked at Sungjin and his lady.

So he is... the man my lady wants...

And his answer was clear.

Level 0 Master - Chapter 129

“Haha. Sorry guys. And thank you.”

“You know we were worried, right?” Zakiya hugged him from his back.

What a fuss I created. Sungjin smiled, and didn’t know how to thank all of them who had waited for him who hadn’t made the first fight against Varka.

Although he was not able to see what was happening exactly, but he was able to feel what was going on. He felt that he was supposed to be dead but the girls were putting everything they had into him to keep him alive.

These girls were his people who would stay with him forever, and he thanked each of them one by one. “Thank you so much, but now that I’m back, you can stop crying.”

“Yes.”

Another light came down next to them and became a person. It was Sooryun. “They are who you were talking about.”

“Oh... you are Sooryun.” Ereka stood up and greeted Sooryun with a warm smile.

“Do you know me?”

“We were able to see what was going on on Sungjin’s side, so I was able to see that you were helping Sungjin.”

“Ah, ok.” But then, Sooryun started to blush. “That... that means... did you...?” Sooryun was worried that they had seen her intimate moment with Sungjin.

“Don’t worry. We were only watching from time to time to check on the situation. We weren’t watching the whole time.”

“Ah, ok.”

Sooryun was relieved, but Ereka had to swallow her sigh. So... that means there was something quite intimate between you and Sungjin...

But there was not much Ereka could do. A guy and girl had worked together, risking their lives. It would have been rather strange if they didn’t have any feelings for each other, and it was Sungjin, who everyone admired. It was only natural if they had something between them.

“Huh. We were worrying about you, and you brought a new girl?” Eustasia asked, making Sungjin flinch.

“Oh, well... that’s... No, I won’t find an excuse for it.” Sungjin smiled awkwardly, knowing that whatever he said would sound like an excuse.

He wanted to tell them that he just wanted to help a girl, nothing more, but that wouldn’t be true. Sungjin was attracted to Sooryun. The night Sooryun had offered her everything to him, his heart had been pounding.

He had many beautiful and lovely girls, but that didn’t mean he couldn’t recognize other types of beauty as beauty. Sooryun was attractive in a different way. Well, I suppose that is the nature of guys. The important thing was not feeling the attraction but acting correctly, but I can’t say I have nothing to hide.

He wasn’t thinking about the night with Sooryun. He had promised himself that he would protect Sooryun, and had asked Sooryun to escape Varka’s world and come with him. He hadn’t been trying to offer a relationship then, but he had to take responsibility for his offer and his choices.

“Stop, Eustasia. That’s unnecessary. It’s okay, Sungjin,” said Ereka with a smile, as if she could understand whatever it was he was thinking. “You are the conqueror of the continent. It doesn’t matter how many women you take.”

But for Sungjin, upsetting Eustasia was an easier situation to deal with than Ereka’s nice words that put even more pressure on him.

“Hmm, well... that is not it.”

“I’m really okay. Don’t worry. It’s something that you can do, naturally.” Ereka’s smile became even brighter, although her eyes told him that she was lonely.

“Haha.” Sungjin thought it would never be simple or easy. Taking more people on his way to becoming an Arc Master meant he had to be the person who could embrace everyone along his way. What he had to do was not apologize to the girls but take responsibility. He decided to conquer Valhalla and save everyone on his way. He didn’t decide to filter and select only some people but take everyone under his protection—that was the responsibility of Cha Sungjin of Valhalla. He was the conqueror of this world, so he had to act accordingly, not by the rule of earth, but by the rule of Valhalla.

But still... this is really tricky. It was more difficult than his battles against strong opponents, but Sungjin decided to stand up and tell them the truth.

“While I was escaping from the closed space of Varka, she was a great teammate for me, and when I destroyed the closed space, she trusted me when I had to make a decision that would change people’s destiny.” He decided to tell them what really happened. “So I had to take responsibility for my choices, so I came here with her. I hope you understand.”

“Hmm. I don’t really know what happened... but you came back safely thanks to her. I’m happy with her!” Rachel smiled brightly.

“Hehe. I’m not in a position where I could complain about any decision you make.” Zakiya bowed to show him that she was just his dancer who would obey him.

Ereka hid her lonely eyes and pretended she was ok.

“You guys fought together in Varka’s world, right?”

“Yes.”

“Then she is our teammate too. Right, everyone?” Ereka asked everyone with a smile.

“Pff. Well, without her help, maybe Sungjin wouldn’t be able to come back, so...” Eustasia approved Sooryun, but she didn’t look very happy.

“She was the one who liberated others in Varka’s world. It was the conqueror’s duty to take her in when he saved her. He is the one who will take the world under him. It is natural that he takes girls in the world as well. Let’s not make Sooryun feel uncomfortable.”

“Yes. He needs much more power.” Ereka held Sooryun’s hand. “Sooryun, welcome to our team. They are complaining now, but they are actually grateful for your help. Thanks

to you, Sungjin is back. Eustasia is just complaining for now, although she is truly happy.”

Ereka’s warm words made Sooryun impressed. “Thank you, Ereka.”

So these are Sungjin’s girls. Sooryun was able to see that everyone was worried about Sungjin and that now they were really happy that he was back. They were not girls who were fighting for Sungjin’s attention but a team that was supporting him. So I can be a part of them and get along.

“Sungjin didn’t forget about you guys when he was locked in Varka’s world. He kept saying he had to go back for you, so I envied you guys.”

“Hmm, did he?”

“That’s a good thing to know.”

Hmm... well... Sungjin didn’t know how he should feel about this. He was not trying to do anything, but they were arranging their relationship among them.

“Hehe. Tell us all about what happened there. We really want to know, but not right now...” Ereka changed the air with a serious face. “Sungjin, don’t you have something to tell us for the next fight?”

“Yeah... yes.”

Sungjin stood straight. He had promised that he would take everyone to a better future when he destroyed Varka’s world. He had no plan to step back, even without that promise he made. Varka was still the one he had to defeat, but Varka was strong.

Sungjin didn’t defeat Varka. He had simply destroyed the world Varka had made with his power. The real fight was about to begin.

Sungjin looked around at everyone.

“The first time, I didn’t even have a chance.” Sungjin accepted his failure and continued. “There’s only one chance left.” This was the only chance to go back. If he accepted that this was an impossible challenge for him and went back, he could still be the conqueror of the continent. There was endless power and four hundred years of youth waiting for him, and it wouldn’t be a bad choice to go back to that, especially when the opponent was such a strong one. “But I was able to learn about Varka, and I improved myself as well.” Common sense was not Sungjin’s specialty. He was the one who could make an impossible choice possible. “So I will defeat him in our next fight.”

“Yes. We trust you.”

“So I hope you will join me in the second fight and put everything into it.” Sungjin bowed formally to ask for their help.

It was a risky challenge. It was not only his life that was at stake, but all the girls’ fate. The biggest risk was that they had only seen two of Varka’s skills during their first fight. It was dangerous, even for Sungjin, to fight against an opponent with unknown skills.

Sungjin understood the risk, but he still had to go forward toward his goal, and he had to create the world that he had promised to the vengeful spirits. He asked the girls to trust him one more time and come with him. He was determined to win.

“I’m your sword. Your wish is my command.”

“I trust you Sungjin Oppa. I want to save people as well.”

Eustasia and Rachel joined him without any hesitation.

“I’m going with everyone.”

“Hehe, I told you I would give you everything: my body and my heart.”

Jenna and Zakiya promised to join him.

“Is everyone coming with you? Let me have a chance to fight with you again—it’s also my fight,” Sooryun asked Sungjin.

“Of course.” It was Sooryun’s fight as well.

Sungjin stood up. It was time for the rematch.

Epilogue

Varka opened his eyes to see Sungjin and his girls. They had come back. “Well done. I didn’t expect you to destroy the Seal of the Devil from the Western Sky. I guess I underestimated you while you were still a conqueror of the continent.”

“I learned a move from you. It was a power of next level.”

Varka’s world, which was built based on his belief in perfect order and absolute control, showed special power in every corner. It was an embodiment of his ideology.

“I will ask you one more time. Don’t you want to change your mind and create the world that I told you to?” Varka asked, because he thought killing Sungjin was a waste, but Varka’s voice showed absolute power that was playing everyone on his hand.

If Sungjin decided to create a world as an Arc Master where Sungjin himself would control everything as a merciful tyrant, then Varka was ready to give this fight to Sungjin.

“If I was going to change my mind, I wouldn’t have destroyed your world to come here.”

“Huh, so that is your final answer.”

Sungjin was standing in front of an absolute power that was much stronger, but he didn’t step back.

“The stupidity of humans didn’t change over a few thousand years. Do you really think that would be possible?”

“I will lead them to change it.”

“That’s impossible.”

“You just gave up.”

“It was impossible even for me, and you can’t even defeat me, but you would do that?” Varka laughed at Sungjin.

“I told you, didn’t I? Humans grow and progress. That includes me.” Sungjin laughed confidently.

“You foolish thing. People are just like kids. The king has to protect them as if their his own children. You shouldn’t let them go free into the wild.”

“To help the kid grow up is the duty of the rightful king.”

“We will never be able to agree on this, so come. I will make you see that your silly pursuit would be useless before rightful rulership.”

“I will show you what I’ve been preparing for you.”

“Come. I will teach you.”

The battlefield had opened.

Level 0 Master - Chapter 130

Sungjin’s sword was embedded into the ground. Dawn Bringer.

The sacred sword, which dismissed all illusions and returned natural order, shone brightly, and one piece of the wheel broke apart.

Sungjin was able to protect himself within the sword's protective shield.

"You've rebuffed my attack."

Their eyes clashed.

"This is the second time. I can read your timing, at the very least."

"I see. You do have the right to enter the central."

"I also have the right to defeat you. Stat Exchange!" Sungjin threw the sword before him and ran forward. What went with him was Ereka's calm yet firm stat.

A golden armour enshrouded him. Sungjin propelled himself from the ground with the knight's power. Even the infinite wheel retreated and revealed a path for the Holy Sword of Halt. The sword went forward as if it were slicing through confusion with its light, and Sungjin similarly closed the distance between himself and Varka.

With this, it was Sungjin's victory.

His sword, which emphasized being shapeless and rhythmless, drove itself toward the opponent's neck without hesitation. Even if the opponent was to retaliate, this was a sword that had calculated such a move. What Varka could do in this situation had already been seen through by Sungjin. With the Front Wheel of the Universe activated, Varka wouldn't be able to use any other skills. The higher the skill level a person had, the less experience he would have against an opponent of equal skill level.

This victory... was his.

Looking at the approaching blade, Varka was suddenly reminded of his past. It was a past from a long time ago, before he had become a Kaiser. It was from when he was still on Earth.

There was no one on earth who could go against his words as the CEO of the wealthy company Group Lucian, which had passed down secret engineering techniques and wealth for four thousand years within the strongest nation.

Aside from his daughter—the only person he had ever loved.

"Father, it's my request for you to not step on the resistance members of the Seryuu."

The Seryuu nation was the continent's colony where his country's influence was the strongest. Currently, it was ridden with resistance movements.

“What are you talking about? The Seryuu nation’s prime minister and his group have had a firm relationship with us for thirty years. Do you know how much income our group earns by monopolizing their country’s natural resources?”

“But that country’s people wants freedom. Please don’t let our nation support the oppression of those resistance movements.”

“Don’t speak nonsense. What do they have to do with you?”

“Please. Treat others as nicely as you treat me.”

“Ha. You’re the only person worth my love in this entire world.”

“Can’t you do it for me?”

“Child, the only person who would cry and worry for you would be myself, your father. Others are those who manipulate you. You must be stronger if you wish to survive in this world. Sympathizing with the weak will only become your weakness, and the weak will ultimately become your backstabbers.”

“But... we have enough.”

“A brief moment of hesitation may cost you everything. Stop thinking about useless things and do as I say.”

But when he returned from the meeting with the prime minister that evening, what awaited him was a letter.

Father, I’m going to the Seryuu nation.

She was immature. She was a child who had been swayed by the idea that the rich and prosperous should volunteer for the poor. She was a child who worried about what other people thought. She was a child who didn’t know she could ignore such things.

But, because she was his daughter, because she was his only daughter... he could not be strict with her. Because he loved her, he gave her freedom, and ultimately allowed her escape.

He shouldn’t have. He should have held onto her. He should have been strict.

If he had... his daughter wouldn’t have died after being swept away in the civil war.

Freedom, freedom, freedom, freedom. Could he accept man’s challenge for such a concept?

No. He knew the ending.

Varka raised his fist. It was a fist without a weapon, but he stretched it out, unwilling to be defeated; however, Sungjin could read its trajectory.

I'll let it slide and aim for his arm. He uses his fists more than his arms. His arm movement is limited.

Even if Varka was a Kaiser, he wouldn't be able to stand against Sungjin's attack solely with his body.

...?

Suddenly, Sungjin's calculation and change in movement occurred due to a premonition. That was because Varka's power surrounding him had not faltered in the slightest. He had decided that the Kaiser had something up his sleeve. Sungjin stepped back and raised his sword. His premonition was accurate.

Crash!

A shockwave rippled through the air. Even though he had blocked some of it with his sword, Sungjin still faltered. This is...

"My fist can shatter a rock some hundred feet away, but you've defended yourself quite well."

Another skill...? No, no. This is.

"Yes, I cannot use my skills. This is purely my martial arts." This was a height he had reached after endless training.

"Your martial arts?"

Sungjin's art was to decrease his sword and his body's movement to the least amount possible. Every hero had praised his fluid sword skill that wasn't bound to structure or movement, but Varka's skill was beyond his.

His fist reached out once more. The fist, which had been trained to the ultimate level, and was without a skill to back it up, reached out. With just that, the air exploded.

"Kuk." Swallowing his pain, Sungjin tried to move his body, but he was ultimately thrown back by the following fist.

His sword had reached a level where everything was destroyed in its path, but his opponent revealed a fist that couldn't be calculated and was the ultimate level. How could he have known?

Varka's strength came not only from his skill but from enlightenment. That was why his level was on a different tier: he had understood life's truth and had learned true martial arts.

Sungjin could only barely read the timing of his attacks and block them with a raised sword.

"What amazing sword skills. It's an ability befitting your climb up the Western continents." Even as he praised Sungjin, there was no hesitation in his attacks.

The air of the fist itself didn't explode. An ultimate power didn't needlessly and uselessly throw aftershocks around an attack. It exploded the air inside Sungjin's body. It was an attack beyond this world that aimed directly toward its targeted area.

Craash!

Reading his opponent's movements, Sungjin responded accordingly, but at the same time, the oppressor could read Sungjin's careful movements in his "foresight" zone.

The person who was above the other in this fight, where each and every movement was read within a split moment, was the one with the most power, which kept creating more injuries on Sungjin's body.

He could avoid the direct attack and block it, but the aftereffects were too great. That one attack was like being run over by a mountain hog. If he hadn't exchanged his specs with Ereka, he would have been dead with the first attack, but even that had its limit. Small damages built up in his body, and Sungjin's body ultimately trembled.

Without missing that chance, Varka's fist was thrown.

Crash.

This time, the attack went through. Sungjin rolled backwards as he dropped.

Varka raised his fist as the victor. "How unfortunate. Your level, that was a level I had reached when I was one hundred and twenty years old." It was amazing for Sungjin to have reached that level when he was but twenty. "But your current self is not my opponent." Because he was talking to someone he defeated, his words held weight.

The girls were in shock. Sungjin had been beaten in a martial arts competition. They couldn't believe it, even though they saw it with their own eyes. Although Sungjin had been defeated by overwhelming power before, he had never lost a pure martial arts competition.

Would this be the result of their last chance for victory?

Sungjin...

Were they unable to surpass Kaiser in the end?

Varka glanced at Sungjin. "What is wrong cannot overcome what is right." The fist should be called a right of gods.

Sungjin stood up and wiped the blood from around his mouth. "Yeah, that's more powerful martial arts than what I've achieved. Thank you for a good experience."

"Now you know there's no chance."

The others were all encased in the Front Wheel of the Universe and fell short of Sungjin's sword toward Varka. They had no odds of winning.

"Ha, you think?" Sungjin laughed. He fixed the sword again and rushed forward.

"Useless." The fist stretched out again.

The sword that computed everything could be called invisible, but the fist that was beyond logic should be called a right of god.

At that moment, when Sungjin's sword was about to be destroyed again by clashing against an attack of another tier, Sungjin reached out with his left hand. Light gathered. Golden rays like the sun gathered in his hands. The glorified god's light descended from heaven to earth to accompany him. It was the shape of a shield that held the sun's might. In that brilliant image, he exclaimed, "Skill Exchange!" That was his second skill.

That was his skill obtained in the second level by connecting more deeply with the girls as the result of their last fights.

"AEGIS, shield of all people!"

The details were:

[You can use the skills of your allies. Your ally who gave you that skill will not be able to use the skill themselves.]

Out of the many, it was the weakest, useless skill. The whole team couldn't increase the number of available skills, after all. Ereka or Sungjin could use it, but in the end, the entire team could only use the skill once. The ability was weak because it wasn't a "skill copy," but Sungjin was satisfied. This skill is enough for a level 2. It was the strongest in his hands.

A golden blaze surrounded all of Sungjin's teammates. It was an inviolable light of god. They were in their own separate world, even from the rules that had conquered the

world. Bondage could no longer bind them. The Front Wheel of the Universe was now meaningless.

An exclamation burst from Varka's mouth. "Ha."

He had thought Sungjin was an abnormal young man, but to think that he could break the Front Wheel of the Universe...

"Attack, everyone!"

Sungjin's command wasn't necessary. His team members, who had waited for this moment, had already begun to give their all.

"Mjolnir!" The first to start the fight was Jenna. A common attack. Won't work against the Kaiser. But what if it was a hammer of the god of thunder?

An incandescent hammer fell down with a ringing punch. It was a reproduction of the myth that crushed mountains, tearing the earth and burning the atmosphere.

At the same time, Eustasia also raised her sword. "You don't need a trivial skill. Heavenly Sword—Durandal!" Heavenly swords became twelve meteor showers that fell toward Varka. One by one, the holy sword that could cut through steel fell.

This was a counterattack.

Varka admired the brilliant attacks. It was beautiful, even though it was the strength of the rebellious.

Amazing.

This radiance. This light.

An old memory came to mind..