

Level 0 Master - Chapter 81

And what is...this scent...

He didn't know if it was the scent of transformation juice or the scent of her skin. She smelled like a beautiful flower under the moonlight; it was an alluring smell that aroused him. With all her efforts, he considered having her.

But Sungjin pushed her away before he became a savage beast.

She is just a child.

Her loveliness was not something to take advantage of; it was something he had to protect. He murmured as he held Rachel's shoulder:

"So that's why you wanted to become an adult."

"Yes."

"But Rachel, just having an adult body doesn't mean you're an adult. Your mind has to be grown as well. Enjoying and experiencing childhood is the only way to become an adult."

"Is it...necessary to grow up slowly?"

"The process of becoming an adult is the most precious and joyful thing..."

"But...what if I can't become an adult? What if the bad guys come and get me before I get a chance?"

That was your concern, I know.

Sungjin wiped Rachel's tears and hugged her.

"It's okay, Rachel. I promise I'll protect you, and you'll live a long life. Trust me."

"Do you really think so...?"

"Yes. You will learn things, one by one, including what love is and how to love." With his repeated promises, Rachel felt less anxious.

"Really?"

"Yes, so don't rush things, okay?"

"Yes, I will grow in time at my own pace."

Soon, the effects of the transformation juice wore off, and she became a little girl again. She became less alluring but still lovely.

“You are a good girl.” Sungjin hugged her tightly.

I promise you will become an adult. I’ll see to it that this happens.

“Thank you, Sungjin Oppa,” Rachel smiled at the secret they now shared.

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Sungjin soon attacked one of the eight Basilicas and declared war. The battlefield was long and narrow. The usual forest and/or neutral monsters Sungjin liked to utilize would not exist in this fight. It would be a straightforward attack without any tricks. There were not many paths, so it was impossible for the heroes to set traps. It would be a challenge for Sungjin, who was a strategist, to fight in this field.

“Do you think we can win on this type of terrain?” Eustasia asked Sungjin anxiously. Sungjin smiled.

“We’ll win this despite the map.”

It was the worst possible scenario. The enemy was stronger than ever while the map did no favors for Sungjin’s team.

Yes, this is a difficult situation.

Sungjin didn’t deny the fact that it was a disadvantageous situation. If he had a choice, the wise decision would probably have been to bow out. But it was a battle against the Holy Pope that he had no choice in; he would clash until the very end.

This will be an uphill battle, but I know we can win.

He was ready. A triumph in this battle would be detrimental to him achieving his goals.

“Did you prepare everything?”

“Yes, now...let’s wait and see how it goes.”

“Yes, now, it’s time to fight.”

There was a lot at stake in this fight; their lives and the future of a child would hinge on today’s battle.

While Sungjin prepared, his opponent relaxed.

“The unholy rebels will be punished today.” The Holy Pope opened his eyes halfway and talked on behalf of God.

“Amen,” the four priests answered to the Holy Pope without doubt. The Holy Pope was the one who could cut the ocean in half.

He knew Sungjin wouldn't be able to hide anything on this battlefield. It was going to be a fight of pure fortitude.

The people of the kingdom of Sevrantina were watching the battle in fear. Although Sungjin was confident enough to challenge him, the Holy Pope of Rupellion had the upper hand.

He was strong enough to curse people and sentence them to agony. They had been impressed by Sungjin's speech and decided to join this fight, but everyday the pain they had to endure made them weak. They, however, remained faithful.

But what if Sungjin fails...

What if they had to endure the curse of the Holy Pope forever?

They didn't think they could live with such pain.

Please...win for us.

They sent prayers for Sungjin to save them.

The heroes were not delusional about the situation.

“This time...”

“We aren't even ready to defend ourselves; we can't attack now.”

“This is going to be tough.”

They thought maybe the four girls could contend with the somewhat stronger four priests, but there was no way Sungjin could take on the Holy Pope. Also, the map showed no crystals for collecting on the single pathway, so there was no way to gather supplies.

There was only one possible scenario: the Holy Pope would dominate the battle from start to finish. But they knew the young lion king wouldn't just run into the fire without any plan.

It wouldn't be easy to fight against the Holy Pope.

Above all, nobody knew how strong the Holy Pope had become after his awakening.

People from Rupellion had no doubt the Holy Pope would defeat Sungjin.

What's his name...Sungjin? He must not be very smart.

Everythings will happen according to God's will.

Didn't they know acting against God's would give them only misery? Absolute obedience was the only right way to live. They couldn't understand why Sungjin didn't follow their creed, and they thought the people following Sungjin were equally short-sighted.

Kelt was among them who were thinking the same thing:

Idiots, they will end up stoned for heresy. They should follow God's will. I will be safe after this fight, but those heretic zealots will die miserably. I will stone them to show God my obedience.

The battle had started. There were only two ways to win: annihilate the opponents or destroy their base. There were four turrets, and nobody knew how the battle would ultimately turn out.

"Let them feel the power of God."

Pedrian hit them with such strength, it appeared he wanted this fight to be a short one. Despite the windless air, the Holy Pope's robe fluttered. The ground shook. Even the priests next to him had a hard time standing still. The attack was wiping everything away around it; the screams sounded like they came up from hell.

But the worst was yet to come.

The Holy Pope held his cane up and opened his eyes.

"God Hand!"

The black hand made up of the flame of darkness filled up the path. There was nowhere to hide. It was the hand of God that split the ocean. Nobody could get near it.

The four turrets exploded with a single blow. Everything and everyone could have been destroyed by a single blow, ending the battle.

“Aegis!”

Somehow, the shield of light was able to stop the hand. God’s Dignity was the only thing that could stop the power of God. With the blessing of Athena, the goddess of wisdom and protection, Ereka held her shield.

The golden halo covered everyone and protected them from the rage. But Ereka’s ultimate skill wasn’t strong enough to fight against the dominant power of the Holy Pope. Her shield couldn’t protect her, and the Holy Pope shifted his attack to her.

Sungjin’s team did their best to counterattack.

“Ocean, protect us.”

A blue shield covered Ereka.

“Willful Defense!” Ereka activated her own protective skill at the same time.

She was a knight with the highest defense power, and she was able to use two defensive skills on top of Aegis; she became almost invincible.

But she was not strong enough to fight against God.

“Ugh.”

The gigantic hand grabbed Ereka and burned through her armor with the fire. It was not surprising the God Hand was strong enough to cancel Ereka’s defense power. The four priests were thrilled to witness the Holy Pope’s talents.

Oh, that is the power of Your Holiness.

They are useless in front of the Holy Pope.

But then, Rachel started her prayer.

“Light, lead us and save us from pain.”

Pure bright light covered Ereka to heal her wounds. Her broken armor recovered its color, and the power balanced from both sides.

Using the Shield of all People, the invincible shield, the blessings of the light and oceans, four skills in total, they were able to stop the attack of the Holy Pope.

“You irreverent creatures,” the Holy Pope murmured unpleasantly.

“We still have the upper hand, clearly.” The great blue priest commented quickly to please the Holy Pope; it was true.

It took Sungjin’s team four skills to combat the Holy Pope’s one.

“Now we will deal with them; let us support you.”

“Go ahead.”

The Holy Pope moved away and allowed them to attack Sungjin and his team. The first turret was destroyed then the second. Sungjin’s team was helpless.

Sungjin was commanding well and fighting against the priests using his martial arts, but his team was too weak compared to the priests. The simple geography of the field made it impossible to plan any surprises.

The priests managed to push Sungjin’s team back to their base camp, and they struggled to protect the two remaining turrets.

But...

It was a struggle, and the priests were about to blow up two remaining turrets.

Sungjin’s team decided to go to the healing camp where the Valkyrie was staying to reload their power for the counter attack.

“Poor things,” said the Holy Pope and raised up his power to finish the fight.

The wind started to shake the path again; the Holy Pope’s eyes shined in various colors to show the God Hand behind him.

“God Hand!”

A gigantic hand wiped them up and everything around them as well. Huge flames threatened to burn everything in their path.

“Aegis!”

Ereka tried to protect them all, but she was not strong enough.

“Light, bless us and protect us.” Rachel used her ultimate skill, but it, too, was not enough.

“Mjolnir!” Jenna tried to fight back, but it appeared useless. The four priests laughed at her.

Suddenly, Eustasia revealed black marbles in her hand. She activated them with her crystals and threw them into the middle of the flames, creating a massive explosion.

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He knew the explosion had the potential to damage both sides, but Ereka was activating her Shield for all People; so, they were protected.

Everyone was confused, including the four priests who had been torn to pieces.

What happened?

They had no idea what nitroglycerin was; they just knew Sungjin had done something. For a moment, it seemed like Sungjin was about to defeat the Holy Pope.

The Holy Pope, laughing at their hope, shouted out:

“You shall serve God after death just like you did when you were alive, Eternal Slave!”

A wind came out from the center of the explosion and disappeared quickly.

The four priests were gone, but the magical robe of the Holy Pope was clean without a stain, protected by the power of the great white priest. Next, six black wings appeared behind Ereka.

“Ah...”

Samuel...the great black priest ultimate skill of killing regardless of the protection took Ereka’s life away. Columns of fire dropped upon the other four.

Rachel quickly cast her spell to fight against the ultimate skill of the great red priest.

“Ocean, protect us.”

Rachel protected Eustasia and Sungjin, who had the lowest defense power, but Rachel and Jenna had to stand against the fire without any shield. Then, blue wind attacked them. It was the ultimate skill of the great blue priest. The wind of swords slayed Jenna and started to attack Rachel.

“I won’t let you.” Sungjin stepped in.

His sword stopped few blows, and the attack ended. It took only a few seconds to kill Ereka and Jenna. Sungjin made it a five-on-one fight, but suddenly it became a three-on-one fight; that was the skill of the Holy Pope.

The Eternal Slave was a skill that allowed him to use the ultimate skills of dead members of his team. The condition was it could only be used once, but once was all it took. His power was next level compared to the power of the Blood Ruler.

It was clear the Holy Pope would reload his skill to use God Hand again, and it would be game over for Sungjin. Sungjin had no time to lose.

“Mother Earth, give us power.”

Rachel’s prayer augmented the attack power of Eustasia and Sungjin, and Eustasia activated her ultimate skill without wasting time.

“Durandal!”

Twelve swords flew like shooting stars. Every sword was a heavenly judgment that could cut through anything. It broke rocks and destroyed buildings. It was a panorama of bright power.

But the Holy Pope Pedrian stood like a mountain holding his cane.

“First Disciple’s Staff.”

His cane shot down the flying swords; they disappeared with sparks trailing behind them. The judgment from heaven couldn’t penetrate the privilege blessed by God.

One. Two. Three. Four...

None of the twelve attacks made it through the cane of the Holy Pope.

“Ugh.”

Eustasia pulled all her remaining power into her final blow. Until now, she was attacking him with the energy of her sword, now she was attacking him with her actual sword with the energy. It was her final blow.

Sungjin moved quickly with Eustasia’s attack.

Until now, he was not able to move properly, but he wanted to add his blow on top of Eustasia’s. Eustasia was aiming at the heart of the Holy Pope from the front, while Sungjin aimed at his heart from behind. But this simultaneous attack didn’t seem to bother the Holy Pope.

He knew the only attack that mattered was Eustasia's final blow. He didn't even bother with Sungjin's attack; this was the difference between the Holy Pope and other enemies that Sungjin had dealt with.

The Holy Pope's defense power was beyond Sungjin's attack power, so Sungjin's attack didn't matter to the Holy Pope; it was like taking a dagger to a tank.

The Holy Pope held his cane to stop Eustasia's sword.

Clang!

Eustasia's sword broke into pieces with a sharp sound. Her final blow didn't work. At the same time, Sungjin's sword stabbed the back of the Holy Pope. The Holy Pope didn't bother looking back and simply raised the defense power of his robe. He didn't care about a stupid attack of a weak and useless human.

The fight ended. Sungjin's sword pierced the heart of the Holy Pope. It was Sungjin's victory.

"Ugh?"

The Holy Pope didn't know what had happened.

The Sword of Heaven's Will, Durandal, was not something that could be broken into pieces so easily, and it was also impossible that Sungjin's blade could go through the robe of the Holy Pope.

"You..."

"We switched," admitted Sungjin with a grin. When he pulled out his sword, the Holy Pope slowly fell down. The broken sword was not the holy sword. It was a counterfeit made by Sungjin's craftsman. Sungjin was holding the real holy sword. The holy sword had been painted to hide its bright light.

That was it. From the beginning, Sungjin had been holding Durandal, while Eustasia was holding a fake Durandal with an explosive.

The holy sword, Durandal, accepted Eustasia as the owner but also accepted Sungjin; therefore, he had been able to harness the real power of Durandal. When Sungjin stabbed the Holy Pope, Eustasia pulled her ultimate power into the sword, while simply swinging the fake one.

Sungjin knew that even science wouldn't be strong enough to fight against the Holy Pope, which is why he prepared another trick. He predicted the Holy Pope would stop the twelve attacks and prepared his final feat.

Eustasia went over to Sungjin and high-fived him.

“Well done!”

“Haha. We won, right?”

It was worth the training for this final blow. The Holy Pope’s body started to become ash. He was sentenced to death, and Sungjin’s team won.

“We won?” Rachel’s eyes were shining.

We defeated the scary Holy Pope.

Sungjin Oppa did it.

“We won, right?”

“Yes!” When Sungjin confirmed, Rachel began to cheer with her arms in the air.

“Hurray!”

“Hurray!”

The people, who had been anxiously watching the battle, started to cheer with her. Sungjin won. Their protector defeated the Holy Pope. They knew the curse of the Holy Pope would be lifted.

Sir Todam continued his writing:

The young lion king defeated the Holy Pope at their first fight. Rupellion had a massive territory and the Holy Pope was thought undefeatable, but Sungjin proved he could fight against such a colossal power. People could no longer say he was just an ambitious young man. It was his victory. He was the hero of the day, having defeated the Holy Pope.

Ereka had tears in her eyes.

“You made it.”

Sungjin defeated the Holy Pope.

She had missed out on Sungjin and Eustasia’s high-five of victory...

It’s okay. I was able to sacrifice myself to assure victory. I will congratulate you when you are back in the waiting room.

Feeling his body scattering, the Holy Pope closed his eyes. That was it. It was just a battlefield. Logically, there would be another battle next time, but how could truth lose?

Wake up. Are you going to let the world go the other way?

He was able to hear the voice of God, the one he had heard a hundred years ago.

Ugh.

He was also able to hear the sound of the lost souls crying out but unable to say a word.

* * *

It was a hundred years ago, when the holy priest was taking care of orphans while teaching people that heaven opens its door to the good people. Life was not easy for the orphans, but they were innocent.

They all followed his teaching, didn't hate the world, and helped people in need with love. They were all good kids, and the priest also tried to help people around him.

People were grateful for his help and told him they would live their lives following God's will, but the priest had to leave the place for a while.

When the thieves from surrounding areas attacked them, he had to handle it. He went to fight against them thinking it was God's will to defeat them. No, that's what he wanted to believe.

But it turned out to be a scheme from a priest from another parish who wanted to kill him and take over his parish. He died and was angry at the priest who he thought had been on his side.

How could a person who serves God do such a thing?

He wanted power over the word of God?

After a year, the priest went back to the orphanage. He couldn't understand how he was still walking around because he was clearly dead, but he didn't have time to think about it; he was in a hurry to check on the children.

But the orphanage was not there. Where it once stood was just a burned building with burned bones. He didn't even know whom the bones belonged to.

"How...how dare you do such a thing?!"

He was angry he knew he would never forgive the people who had done this.

Three days later, he used his cane to stab the heart of the priest who had tricked him. Maybe it was his rage, but he was much more powerful than before.

“For...forgive me...I was just...”

Maybe it was not sincere, but the priest who betrayed him apologized.

“I forgive you.”

“Really?”

It was okay that someone tried to kill him to take his status, maybe it was just a flaw of humans to do anything for power.

But...

“But I won’t forgive you! How dare you kill innocent children!”

They were innocent and had nothing. His anger brought forth stronger power from his cane.

“Children?” The other priest didn’t understand what children he was talking about and died with a confused face.

What happened?

The confusion apparent at the moment of death was not an act.

The real killers are out there?

The priest searched for truth and found out that it was not the bad priest who killed the children. The killers were good people, rather those people who pretended to be good and took his generosity. The hypocritic killers were...the village people.

They found out the new priest didn’t like the now dead priest and worried that the new priest might harm them if he believed the rumor that the dead priest left a fortune to the orphans.

When it was convenient, they quickly turned into robbers. That was the real color of a human being, the evil and ugly truth. What he saw was just another face of humans’ greedy side.

Do you understand how you should form this world?

Angramainyu had spoken.

When the priest heard the voice of the first and only creator of evil, he finally realized who had saved him and what he must do. He was the one who had to be called The Prophet. He was the one who had to prepare the world until the arrival of the Child of God.

The truth of the world didn't stand on the good side, so he had to be the one to punish the wrong as a priest. Humans belonged in hell.

Lead this world to the real truth.

"I take your order, my God."

Agreeing to reinforce the real truth, Pedrian signed a pact with Angramainyu.

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One theory flashed through Sungjin's mind. It was an ability certain champions had, although he had never witnessed it, and could be one held by the heroes of Valhalla.

It was...rebirth. Sungjin thought, perhaps, it was the last skill the Holy Pope possessed.

The darkness filled the air, and the voice echoed on the battlefield. It was not the voice of the Holy Pope, it was a voice of a transcendent revelation:

"You are disloyal to God. You won the fight between mortals."

The voice was announcing the victory of Sungjin, but the sound was overwhelming. Every word echoed in people's minds.

"I allow the victory of humans," said the voice as if it was granting this defeat.

"But that is a sand castle built with the power of the world." With the voice, the darkness became even darker.

"It can't reach heaven, and now I shall punish your arrogance by God's will!"

It was time for punishment. The power of God was about the discipline the mortals. All eight Basilicas of Rupellion began to vibrate.

One, two, three, four...eight.

The Basilicas lit up at once, covered with dark flame; the people became frightened. The blaze burned, and the air moved with the flame. Suddenly, the black columns rose

up to the sky, flew up through the clouds, and disappeared as if heading to another dimension.

A gigantic column fell from the sky and crashed to the ground where Sungjin was standing. It was the exact spot where the Holy Pope had died.

Is this an invasion of an outer force?!

Sungjin held his sword. It was foul play, but it was not the first time. When Ereka tried to sacrifice herself with the forbidden ritual, the power reached across the wall of the battlefield. The wall of the battlefield was created by gods. Gods and devils could cross the line with their power.

But how strong is the power this time?

Sungjin was not the only one feeling it. The darkness that came from the sky was not just reviving the Holy Pope; it was stronger than that. It was a force mightier than the ultimate skill of the Holy Pope.

What's going on and what kind of power is this? Is it...

Sungjin had a theory he thought might reveal itself soon.

The darkness concentrated to create the shape of a human. It was an image of the Holy Pope, but it was not the real him. It was a human and also a creature that was a transcendent level of a human.

The dark aura from him painted the ground black and colored the sky dark. Behind him, there was an abyss, an endless darkness; in the darkness, there were two red lights shining like eyes.

The mechanical voice of the Valkyrie echoes around the battlefield.

Class change admitted.

It was not a regular situation; it was a power that broke the rules.

Changed into a new class:

Avatar.

Changed of abilities.

Level: impossible to calculate.

Attack power: impossible to calculate.

Defence power: impossible to calculate.

Magical power: impossible to calculate.

Ugh.

The Valkyrie's words sent a chill down Sungjin's spine. It was impossible to understand how strong the Holy Pope had become; it was definitely beyond the power of humans.

This is not fair.

Sungjin had won the fight cleanly using his wits, and God was about to upset the result.

The priests were protected by God, but isn't it a foul play when God gets involved directly?

It would be like if an owner got involved in a game and canceled the results he didn't agree with using money and power. It was more than just cheating.

"Time for atonement." The Holy Pope's voice came from everywhere.

"Huh, what about this...the Sword of Heaven's Will—Durandal!"

Eustasia, attempting to interrupt the Holy Pope's plan, activated her ultimate skill.

I've got to cut him off now, or he'll be able to collect even more power.

What she released was the unstoppable Sword of Heaven's Will, the great sword of legend that the messenger of heaven gave to the knight to save the kingdom. Twelve swords came down to the ground like shooting stars. The attack made the monsters shiver in fear.

"Beautiful."

Pedrian, rather the incarnation of Angramainyu, praised the attack.

"Useless humans."

The Holy Pope stamped his cane on the ground and created an explosion that broke the twelve lights. All twelve swords scattered and disappeared; the real sword was the only one that started to attack the Cane of God.

Clash!

With the sound of broken glass, the Sword of Heaven's Will broke into pieces, a tragic outcome to Eustasia's desperate determination.

"Du... Durandal... cough..." Eustasia coughed blood when the artifact connected with her was broken.

This is... the power of God...

She was helpless. Destruction of a weapon was not easy.

When Sungjin had attempted to break a magical sword with Durandal, he had found it extremely difficult. Now, Durandal, the unstoppable and unbreakable sword of legend, was...broken with a single blow...

"Poor human, Durandal's power only applies to mortals. Did you think you could use it on God as well?"

She had witnessed a rank break, the rule of a lower rank wouldn't work for the higher rank's power.

"Be gone." The dark flame covered Eustasia.

"Huh."

She didn't even have time to scream before disappearing into ashes. It was the sudden death of a great warrior.

"You!" Sungjin tried to throw a final blow to the Holy Pope.

"Be gone." With these words, Sungjin was blasted back by an explosion in the air.

"Kneel," said the Holy Pope, and the massive power of gravity pushed Sungjin to his knees.

"Ugh."

It was a dominance beyond the rules of nature; it was impossible for humans to resist or fight against it. Sungjin couldn't move. The Holy Pope looked at him as if he was looking at a tiny beetle on the ground.

"That is suitable for you. You will be punished to serve as an example of what others can expect when they rebel against God..."

"Shi*t!"

Sungjin could only glare at the Holy Pope; no martial art, calculation, or movement would free him from the invisible restraint.

There must be something I can do to escape this?

He was not fighting against the Holy Pope; he was fighting against the evil God embodied in the Holy Pope. His strength transcended the level of humans and would make it impossible to fight.

The power of the Holy Pope seemed endless.

Flump.

Everyone began to kneel. They understood the immensity of the Holy Pope's control. They couldn't understand why he had hidden his power until now; some guessed he had built up the eight Basilicas solely for this purpose.

People once believed the continent was under the balance of power, but it appeared this was false. The Holy Pope was just taking time to finish everything at once, so no one could stand in his way. Sungjin was at his mercy.

"Don't be afraid," the Holy Pope said to Rachel as he smiled. With his gentle expression, he didn't look like the creator of all evil. He looked like a savior.

"I'm not trying to punish you, but lead you to the glory of God." In his mind, he was trying to save her...but he was a savior of darkness.

"What are you trying to tell me?"

Sungjin's instinct was to tell the Holy Pope to shut up, but he remained calm and assessed the situation. If the Holy Pope wanted to simply use Rachel as a sacrifice, he didn't have to do all of this.

Are you planning to make her your toy? No, you're not that kind.

There was something more that he wanted.

Sungjin's eyes started to shine again. If he could find out what the Holy Pope wanted, maybe he still had a chance to overcome this. He had no plans on giving up.

Let's think.

He was just a mere human in front of God, but he still had a brain and could think for himself.

The Holy Pope looked at Rachel.

“Do you still think the goddess will save you?”

“Yes... yes...The goddess promised me. If I save sick people, I will be able to lift the curse and have a better life,” answered Rachel with fear in her voice.

The faith was the only thing that kept her going after escaping from Rupellion. She survived because she believed if she was good the goddess would save her.

“My poor girl, there is no goddess. It was a lie.”

“No, Kuga told me that the goddess would save me.” Rachel almost screamed.

Kuga told me that and then led me to Sungjin Oppa, who has protected me up to this point.

“I will show you the truth.”

The Holy Pope reached his hand into the air where there was a leash. When he pulled the leash, Kuga dropped to the ground. The Holy Pope mercilessly threw the lion to the ground.

“Ugh.” Kuga dropped with a bone-breaking sound, and the Holy Pope stamped his cane on the ground.

“Mirror of hell that takes the dead to the underworld, reveal the ugly truth!”

A mirror with a golden frame appeared hazily and reflected a scene with Kuga. It was a scene from the past that the golden mirror replayed.

A loyal subject of the Golden Wise King, Rainbow lion Kuga kneeled in front of his king and reported:

“Just like you planned, Rupellion and Sevrantina are going to clash.” He was reporting with a communication stone to the king who was far away.

“The foolish king of Sevrantina took the bait.”

“Foolish? Hahaha. He is not foolish.”

“Huh?”

“I’m sure he didn’t believe the message of the goddess and thought there was a conspiracy. Who else could plan something like that? I’m sure he doubted it more than a hundred times.”

“But...he granted asylum of the sacrifice...and refused to negotiate with Rupellion...he didn't even look like he was doubting...”

“That's how he is.”

“Although...he considered a conspiracy?”

“Even if there was a conspiracy, since the poor girl had to be saved, he took her in; that's the kind of man he is.”

Kuga suggested the Golden King attack them while the Holy Pope and Sungjin were fighting.

“No way!” Rachel screamed.

“This is a lie! I can't believe what you're saying about Kuga.”

“It is the truth. The lion is a spy from the Golden Wise King.”

The Holy Pope was telling them the truth, so they too could witness the nastiness of the world; people needed lies, but he was not covering anything up.

“Kuga created the goddess to trick you.”

“I don't believe you! Kuga gave me the revelation from the goddess!”

“Look.”

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It was his real color without the power. His facial expression also changed significantly. He lost his sincere look and showed crossed eyes and a sly smile.

Kuga shouted at Rachel:

“Hahaha, such a stupid little thing. Being caged up, you were gullible enough to believe everything I said. Thanks to you, I was able to help my king and get promotions.”

“Kuga...”

“The idiot next to you is the same! He doesn't know how to live this life! He was played by my king!”

“No...no...Kuga. You helped me to escape.”

The next moment the Mirror of Truth showed another scene.

The door of a dark prison opened, and a lion came to a girl who had never seen the light.

“I came to save you following the order of the goddess.”

“Save me?”

“Poor thing, you are a child of the goddess,” his eyes showed the warmth of his heart.

It was a beautiful scene of salvation, but a dark shadow was hidden behind the lion and showed his dark thoughts.

I can't believe I need to travel this journey with this dirty, bloody girl on my back. My fur will get all dirty, but I have to do this for my promotion.

The salvation was just a staged scene by the Golden Wise King. Even the light of the lion was an illusion made by the items hiding inside.

“No... no... when I was in pain... he showed mercy...”

When Sungjin held Rachel in his arms, Kuga was looking at them; the dark shadow behind him revealed his dark thoughts again:

Haha. That worked. He was easily tricked by this. Who told me he was smart? He was good at fighting but doesn't know anything about this world. I'm getting my promotion for sure now, such an idiot; it would have been impossible to escape Rupelion without the help of my king.

“No... no... no....”

The truth finally sunk in.

Bang.

The Holy Pope stamped his cane on the ground. Kuga's body broke apart into tiny pieces with his blood and intestines scattered on the ground. The scene was as disgusting as Kuga's mind.

“Kuga...The goddess...”

Kuga was a lie, and it meant the goddess and the salvation were also a lie.

Rachel fainted.

“Angramainyu is the only God. Evil is the only truth. I will show you the second proof!”

The Holy Pope stamped his cane again; the dark flame covered Sungjin and Rachel.

“Ugh.”

Sungjin was able to stop screaming, but he couldn't stop the pain. All his nerves were heated up with the fire, but the flames did not burn his body; it was an endless punishment from hell.

“Ughhhh!!” Rachel started to scream with pain.

“Do you have any other God? Any gods to save the good? If so, pray. Pray to find out who would save you!”

The Holy Pope held his cane high in the air, and the dark flames covered everyone outside of the battlefield.

“Ughhhhh!” The screams of the people shook the sky and the ground.

“Do you think you've been good? Do you think you are innocent? Then pray! Pray to save you! Pray to see who would save you!”

The Holy Pope's words were directed at the people before him writhing on the ground.

“There's no such salvation.”

If there was a salvation, the orphans wouldn't have been killed. This world was hell, although people tried to deny it.

“Ugh... ugh....” Rachel screamed with tears realizing there was no goddess to answer her prayer.

The real God was...

The Holy Pope was the only one with God.

I thought if I follow the will of the goddess I would be saved. I thought I would have a chance to become an adult to date Sungjin Oppa.

There was nothing left in her. She had built up her hope only to be left with deeper despair. It was even worse than physical pain; her soul was killed by the cruel truth.

The Holy Pope was enjoying his victory.

Humans talk about good when it benefits them or if they're seeking things such as respect or fame. Sometimes, powerful people put on a show in front of others to fool them or to make a deal. But as soon as they don't need to, they stop pretending. That

was the truth of good and evil, and he was about to break that mask with the power of God.

“Now you see, humans! Angramainyu is the one and only God! Accept him as your god to stop this pain!” The Holy Pope Pederian looked at Sungjin and Rachel.

“Now that you’ve seen the truth, ask for forgiveness to God. Make an oath that you would help him to lead the world to his will. If you do so, God will take you under his arms,” said the Holy Pope holding the fruit of God in his hand.

“Now is the time to convert!”

The fruit exploded, and the darkness covered Sungjin and Rachel.

The Holy Pope raised his eyebrows.

Were they both worth it?

He didn’t expect Sungjin to be covered by the power of the fruit of God.

People said that he came from elsewhere...maybe that was true... but that doesn’t matter.

It didn’t matter which one asked for forgiveness first. All he wanted was one of them to beg for mercy and say they would be willing to do anything.

Rachel was a child of God; the other one was a human from another world summoned by princess Ereka and her forbidden ritual.

Doesn’t matter which one.

He was standing in the altar of Angramainyu; any prayer for darkness would reach him. The king of darkness would open the door of hell and make this world a living nightmare as it’s supposed to be.

Finally, everything was in its place. The truth would win.

People from Rupllion started to believe they were the smart ones.

When Sungjin stabbed the Holy Pope with his sword, they worried, but their God was the only winner.

I hope no one noticed I was worried...

They started to worry that others would have seen their lack of faith and report it to the priests. Kalt was one of them.

See? I was right.

The old lady, Irein, was senseless; nobody asked her to give him the juice. It was futile to stand against God. He followed God's will to punish her. It was her fault.

So stop showing up in my dreams!

Why... why?!

You shouldn't be able to haunt my dreams anymore.

God had won. Now everyone could see what happens when they disobey God. God was the only truth.

* * *

Sungjin shook his head.

Ugh. What's going on?

He was covered with black flames, and a man with an evil smile stood in front of him. Bizarrely, he had another face on his back; Sungjin was not able to see the facial expression on the other face clearly.

Two faced... is it?

"Yes, you are worthy of being a vessel. My name is Janus, guard of all gates."

He read my mind.

"Here, human minds built this altar for over a thousand years; now I ask you, who had reached the king of nine hells..."

I am worthy?

Sungjin looked around to see Rachel behind a transparent wall facing Janus.

So she is worthy as well.

Sungjin thought quickly about what he would ask Janus.

"You, who is aiming to be on the top of Valhalla, do you still have the same wish?"

"Yes!" Sungjin knew lies wouldn't work in front of this god, so he answered truthfully.

“It won’t work. You’ll be crushed and will lose everything soon.” That was the verdict from the god.

It was the truth; Sungjin had no hidden card to defeat the Holy Pope.

“The Holy Pope has his God behind him, but you only had the illusion of having a god protecting her. This was a losing game from the beginning..”

One was blessed by a real god, while the other believed in a false god. It was clear who held the winning card.

“It’s too late for regret.”

“Regret?” Sungjin stopped Janus. Although he was restrained by this power, his voice was clear and confident:

“So you can’t really read everything in my mind?”

He didn’t have any regrets.

“The goddess was fake, so what? Don’t get confused, the god of all gates!”

Sungjin’s spirit surged.

“Surely you don’t think I believed in the blessing of a goddess!”

Although it was a nice thought, he had never fully believed the tale of the goddess sending Rachel.

“I didn’t promise to save her to get some reward from the goddess!”

He hadn’t done this because of a false tale or the thought of a reward. He just wanted to protect Rachel.

“The existence or the absence of goddess doesn’t change anything. I don’t regret my decision!”

“You...”

“Now should I read your mind? Are you about to ask me if I want to make a pact with Lucifer, the ruler of the nine hells?”

Sungjin’s eyes shone sharply. Although at his lowest point, his mind remained made up.

“Is Ereka the price? Or is it Rachel? Or does he want the whole world? Those are probably the minor details. He needs my soul to keep his power.”

“Pfff. You are arrogant, human. What is your answer then? Do you want it or not? Do you want the highest position of this world as the successor of the fallen morning star?”

“I don’t need it,” answered Sungjin without hesitation.

He had wanted to become an Arc Master with his own power having won fairly without cheating. If not, it was meaningless.

“So you want to remain noble and disappear as a defeated one?”

“No way,” Sungjin answered with a grin.

If it was a game, he would have accepted this, but this was a war; there were a lot of people were at risk if he didn’t make it. He still had so many to protect.

Rachel is like my little sister.

Ereka is always taking care of me in the background.

There’s my strategic partner, Eustasia, and cute and ruthless Jenna.

I have a lot of people I need to protect and take care of.

“Are you listening, Lucifer? You can use me as your vessel, but there’s a condition. You can use me only until you defeat the Holy Pope who’s become an incarnation of Angramainyu.”

The offer gave Sungjin the advantage.

“So you don’t want Angramainyu to take over this world, right?”

If Lucifer was not interested total dominance, he wouldn’t have contacted Sungjin in the first place.

“So let’s make this a mutual deal. What do you think?”

“Hahaha. You just offered something quite useless to God.”

“Well, when the fight is a tie, even a matchstick can be an advantage.”

Sungjin didn’t move a muscle. Currently, his only card was he was worthy of being a vessel.

“Lucifer will have to make his choice. If I can’t save this world, it doesn’t matter who rules, Angramainyu or Lucifer.”

It didn't really matter that he would be the agent. Sungjin told him to walk away if he didn't believe him. He had no plans to bluff God.

Then he got the answer.

"Stupid human, you are resisting, but the child made her choice." The words of Janus caused Sungjin to look back at Rachel with empty eyes.

"No, Rachel!" Sungjin called out to her, but Rachel crossed her head with tears.

I'm sorry, Sungjin Oppa. You did so much for me. But like this...I can't...

So this was the only way...because her goddess was not true. No salvation could come from a fake goddess. So...

She had to pray to the powerful. The pain from hell was unbearable.

"Save me," she prayed.

Level 0 Master - Chapter 85

Rachel answered:

"I don't want to feel this pain anymore. This is too much."

"What will you give for your wish...this world?" Janus asked.

A writing board of God appeared in front of her.

Rachel's last word, if she promised to give the world to God, would open the gate of hell. Snakes started to breathe fire, and poisonous gas slithered out of the closed door.

No, Rachel.

Sungjin wanted to shout, but his voice couldn't reach her.

Rachel slowly shook her head.

"No, I offer you myself!" she cried.

"So...stop torturing Sungjin Oppa...and the others..."

"Then you will be in the same pain for eternity. Is that what you want?"

"Yes...Sungjin Oppa...I don't want him to feel the pain...I'll take it all."

She knew how painful it would be because she was living it. The thought of having that torture again and again was dreadful, but she didn't want Sungjin Oppa, whom she loved so much, to feel that pain.

It was not that she wanted that agony but...

If there was no goddess and not everyone could be saved...

She wanted to save him rather than saving herself; she cared for him that much.

The goddess was not real...and Kuga was a liar.

But Sungjin Oppa's love was real. She had heard it with her own ears. He said he didn't care if she was a child of god or not, he would save her. With or without the blessings of a goddess, with or without her power, he would still save her. He wanted to protect her even if it was a conspiracy of the Golden Wise King.

She realized Sungjin would save her no matter the circumstances. He had been trying to teach her everything with love.

I love Sungjin Oppa. Even if everything was an illusion, I still love him; this feeling is real, and I want to save him even if that means I go to hell. I don't want other people to feel the pain; it's too much. I want to save others just like Sungjin Oppa saved me.

She would give up her salvation to save the others.

"I will go to hell."

"You have made your choice," Janus answered with authority.

"No!" Sungjin screamed and tried to reach out to her, but the transparent wall was unbreakable. The blackness rose up. Boiling water surrounded Rachel. It was a creation of human horror that was as dark as an abyss.

"Rachel!" Sungjin screamed, but Rachel smiled at him peacefully and mouthed a message so that he could read her lips:

Goodbye Oppa...Thank you for everything...I was...happy for a little while.

The malice from everyone tainted the pure white into black, and the young girl disappeared into the darkness. It happened slowly, from her toes to her knees, her knees to her waist, her waist to her chest, and her chest to her neck.

She was shivering in fear and holding her hands tight, but she was smiling at Sungjin with tears in her eyes.

“Rachel...” Sungjin tried to reach her, but she was too far away. Soon, the darkness swallowed her entire body.

Hell started to boil with the sacrifice.

“Hahaha! That was the natural order!” Pederian dropped his holiness for a second to laugh cheerfully.

It was time to introduce hell to the world. The devils disguised as humans would be saved by the inferno.

“Show yourself, my God, the creator of all evil, Angramainyu!”

The darkness of Hades exploded, and in the blaze a sliver of light appeared.

“What?”

It was a pure bright light coming out to bloom, a white lotus flower.

A sweet fresh scent came from the flower, and there was a door in its center. When it slowly opened, a holy bell chimed. It sounded like the whisper that heals all wounds.

“No...no way!” Pederian screamed with denial.

It was impossible. It was the altar of decadency. It was in the center of the Basilica that he had built with the power of Angramainyu. The fruit was the essence of human thoughts accumulated for over a thousand years. It was a pure evil to bring out the darkness on the altar.

“Why is the door of heaven opening?”

Janus turned his face and showed a warm and kind expression:

“The girl’s prayer reached a god to open the door...”

That was the prayer of Rachel. She hadn’t asked for salvation in the afterlife or happiness in the present. She didn’t ask for fame or respect; she just wanted to save people through self-sacrifice. She asked for no reward in return.

It was love beyond salvation.

Everything she believed in turned out to be lies, and every reprieve she was waiting for would never come. But she still wanted to do good.

Its name was...Unrequited Mercy. Her wish had reached the god to open the door that suited her.

Sungjin stood up.

“That’s right, if the fruit has been accumulating human thoughts, there must be light in it as well.”

“But this is the altar of Angramainyu!”

Janus answered:

“It doesn’t matter whose altar it is; her prayer headed to the light. Even the creator of evil can’t change that.”

“No...no...This is impossible!” The Holy Pope remained in denial.

People pretended to side with a good god only when they thought it would benefit them. When they think the evil god is stronger, they would sacrifice friends, family, anyone. Something was wrong; such dirty humans wouldn’t wish for good.

“I’ve done my job.” Janus disappeared.

The door opened, and the goddess revealed herself. She was wearing a white robe as she sat atop the lotus and looked at people with merciful eyes. In her hand was a blue bottle. Inside the bottle was a formula that would put out the hellfire and heal anyone; the formula was called Avalokitevara.

It actually went by many different names, but the core was simple: mercy.

It was a mercy that didn’t expect any reward.

Rachel burst into tears.

“Goddess, you came to save me; you heard my prayer. You are real.”

The goddess smiled and answered:

“No, little girl...”

Rachel’s tears dropped into her bottle. When the goddess tilted the bottle, the liquid inside made a musical sound. It was the holy water of salvation, the Honeydew.

Legend said the Honeydew had saved the holy tree that had existed even before the creation of the world

“Your love opened my way.”

The holy water filled with mercy doused the fire of sin that humans created with greed and guilt. It gently rained over everyone.

The flame covering Sungjin disappeared, and the fire blazing the people outside of the battlefield withered away. The water also washed away the tattoo etched into Rachel's back. The darkness engraved on her heart disappeared.

"I won't accept this!"

A dark force shot out from the Holy Pope and created a deep abyss behind him. The darkness roared to fight against the salvation of the light.

"The goddess made a grave error in appearing here! I will give this world to the one and only true god, Angramainyu!"

The truth would win, hence darkness would be supreme victor!

But the goddess blew a lotus blossom to Sungjin with a smile.

"Boy, your heart helped her to open this door. Take my power to finish this fight."

As soon as the lotus flower touched Sungjin, he felt a sensation of power transmitted to his body. The sensation was so strong, it was beyond words.

Class change admitted.

Changed into a new class: a proxy of God.

Change of abilities.

Level: impossible to calculate.

Attack power: impossible to calculate.

Defense power: impossible to calculate.

Magical power: impossible to calculate.

A bright sword appeared in his hand; it was the Glass Guidance Sword.

It was another holy sword of a god from the center of the universe, Mandara; it had been used to discipline kings of darkness. The transparent sword would break the darkness covering the Holy Pope.

"Okay, let's fight!" Sungjin attacked.

“I hold the truth!” said the Holy Pope as he fought back with his cane.

The sword and the cane clashed. Where there was a god of darkness, there was a god of light. So it came down to the fight of a human against another human. The question was who would be stronger: the human blessed by a god of light or the human blessed by a god of darkness.

“This is a pretty even match; what’s going to happen?!” Ereka said with worry.

Eustasia laughed and answered:

“So they have almost the same amount of power from their god. Aren’t you forgetting one thing?”

“Huh?” Before Ereka could reply, Sungjin’s sword cut the Holy Pope in half.

The Holy Pope melted into the darkness and became the darkness himself...

“Die! A few hundred hands shot out from the darkness to attack Sungjin.

Every hand was as powerful as the ultimate skill of the Holy Pope; this didn’t seem to bother Sungjin.

“You’re wasting a lot of power.”

Sungjin was flying among raining hands with his refined movement. He avoided every hand he could while cutting those he couldn’t. When he reached the darkness, Sungjin pushed his sword into the center, and the light exploded.

“Ughhh!” With a scream, the blackness scattered, and the Holy Pope appeared again in the same spot.

Again, the cane clashed with the sword. It was a fight of pure swordsmanship.

“Your movement is inefficient,” Sungjin informed the Holy Pope.

“Now do you get it?” Eustasia smiled as if she was telling everyone they didn’t even have to cheer.

Sungjin defeated the Holy Pope when they had fought as humans. This was a fight as proxies of gods, and neither one could use strategy.

The Holy Pope used to fight against opponents with his dominant power supplied by God, while Sungjin fought against much stronger enemies with extreme tactics.

They were fighting a fair fight now, but it felt different to them; it was shapeless and rhythmless. It was the movement of sword without thought.

Even the Blood Ruler couldn't fight against it with pure swordsmanship. There was no way the Holy Pope could stop it.

"I still don't know which one is stronger, the light or the darkness..."

Eustasia smiled.

"Our man is strong for sure."

"You're right; Sungjin is strong."

His sword cut the cane and the Holy Pope in half.

"Ugh..."

Blue team won.

Finally, the Valkyrie declared the victory of the Blue team.

It was the victory of the light, the victory of Sungjin and Rachel, the victory of a boy and a girl wanting to do good beyond the salvation of God.

Level 0 Master - Chapter 86

Passive: The same amount bonus as the magical power added for all spells related to healing/protection.

Passive: Cooling time reduced by 40 percent for all spells related to healing/protection.

Spell power: 600.

"Wonderful, little girl. Embrace the world with your love for the boy."

"Yes!"

Then the goddess looked at Sungjin, and Sungjin felt the transcendent power inside him fading away.

Hmph. It was not a power I could keep.

The power had been overwhelming; it could not be compared to level seven or eight. With it, he was fighting as a proxy of God. It was not a fight of humans. It was a fight

that he had to win, but it was not his fight. If he held onto it to become an Arc Master, that wouldn't be his achievement.

I don't need it anymore.

It was enough that the power stopped the evil God from cheating.

"But I would deeply appreciate if you let me have some level," said Sungjin hoping the goddess would reward him that much.

"It's not depending on me; it is on you."

"What?"

"You're not accepting the power of this world because you are not connected to this world."

"I have no plans to sacrifice Ereka to have a connection with this world."

"There's another way."

"Another way?"

"If you have a deep connection with girls with different powers from this world, those powers will be connected to you as well." As soon as the goddess finished speaking, she disappeared.

"Deep...connection?" Sungjin was confused.

Deep connection with girls with different powers.

What kind of deep connection?

Connection as a man and a woman?

Is it...

"W...wait! What do you mean by the connection..."

But the goddess was already gone.

"Pff. If you wanted to help me, why didn't you just tell me..."

In most situations, Sungjin wouldn't need any more clues. He would have discovered the answer himself; but this time, he was lost like a teenage boy.

The clue made him think the answer was quite tricky.

What do you want from me, goddess?

Sungjin would figure it out eventually.

Sungjin and Rachel returned to the waiting room.

“Congratulations!”

“Good job!”

“Sungjin Oppa! Way to go!”

“It was our victory. Well done, everyone,” Sungjin didn’t claim the victory alone.

“But Sungjin.”

“Huh?”

“Well...nothing. Let’s go back and party.” Erika was blushing but smiled at Sungjin.

“We should celebrate, Rachel. You did a great job.” Sungjin praised Rachel.

“Hehehe. The goddess was real! I’m...happy.”

Everyone looked at Rachel with love.

Sungjin’s camp was full of happiness, but the Holy Pope’s camp was in a panic. The four priests screamed in confusion.

“Your Excellency? Your Excellency! Wake up!”

The great white priest used his healing power to wake the Holy Pope up, but it didn’t fully work. He was slowly dying.

Dying on the battlefield shouldn’t kill a person in the waiting room, but this was a special case. Angramainyu had kept the Holy Pope alive for more than 100 years, and now the power of Angramainyu was fading away; he lost his force to stay alive.

Pedrian couldn’t even hear the four priests anymore.

Is this...the end...

He didn't understand why he lost this battle. This world was hell where devils called humans were living. He had been positive the creator of evil would win, and he had been on the side of truth.

For the first time, the Holy Pope was able to hear the crying voice of vindictive spirits.

S...t...o...p...

Children cried out to him:

We are sad we died like that...

But we were happy to be with you.

We don't want you to do such scary things.

Oh, that's it.

Pedrian started to cry as he remembered. They were such lovely children; they were worried about him even in death. The light had been with him, although he was not able to see it.

"Did I give you the pain...I was foolish..."

When Rachel heard the Holy Pope, she hesitated.

She came to check when she heard the screaming of the priests and heard the Holy Pope.

What should I do?

He was a bad guy who gave her nothing but pain. He caged her and when she escaped, he tried to put her back in the cage. He was the worst person in this world.

But...

He was apologizing as he lay dying, and she felt sorry for him.

Now, I'm all cured.

She held the hand of the Holy Pope and smiled.

"I'm okay now. Don't do bad things again."

I will accept his apology.

She decided to forgive him.

“Is that so...thank you,” said Pedrian with his last breath.

He was happy to see the children smiling for the last time.

He had been wrong, but they smiled for him anyway.

You’re forgiving me.

Yes...they were such a lovely children.

Just like the darkness, the light was with me.

Why did it take so long for me to realize...

The four priests kneeled in front of Rachel.

“We will devote ourselves to you, Saint Rachel.”

“Huh?”

“Your God is more truthful than ours, so we shall follow you.”

They bowed down.

“We want to follow the rightful faith; please forgive us and take us.”

“Take us.”

“Uh...well...” Rachel didn’t know what to do and looked at Sungjin.

“Sungjin Oppa, what should I do?”

Sungjin giggled.

So, that was it.

For the priests, the logic of the world was about divinity. So they are turning their back from the old God and trying to follow the new God who would give them the real salvation. What they wanted to follow was not the doctrine or the truth but the salvation.

That was the nature of humans.

To make Rupellion better, they would follow the new God.

“Take them. You already forgave their leader; you can give the followers a second chance, right?”

“Yes, Sungjin Oppa,” Rachel nodded with a bright smile.

“You shouldn’t abuse people from now on.”

“Teach us the new rules; we will follow your word.”

The four priests bowed down to the little girl.

The people of Sevrantina cheered, but the people of Rupellion didn’t know how to react; should they cheer or cry? They had lost the absolute power that had given them their unwavering faith for so long.

Should we honor the fallen God?

What if the new conqueror, Sungjin, is angry with us?

Should we cheer?

But...Would it be okay? The Holy Pope was forgivable for such things.

They had no idea what to do.

Kelt fell down on his knees.

Angramainyu is defeated?

My God was not an absolute power?

Then...

Then...

I followed his rules, what now?

God was the absolute truth because God has the absolute power.

But the absolute power was...defeated by a bigger power...

That means, the bigger power is holding the truth?

Then...

What about....

What I did....

What about...I stoned Irein...

“Ugh.... Ahhh...”

Kelt burst into tears. He didn't know what to say and continued crying. It was the first time in his life he had shed tears.

Epilogue

Sungjin won only a small parcel of Rupellion from his fight against the Holy Pope. But the battle was over; everyone from Rupellion surrendered.

The young lion king of the south defeated our God and the Holy Pope with his God, one stronger than ours.

That was a good enough reason for them to obey. The new God was stronger than the old God. It would only be natural for them to follow the new power.

All priests surrendered to Sungjin and Rachel.

Sungjin took all of them under him, and he received a massive amount of land.

Status report of your land:

Population: 231,370,000

Area: 3,720,000 km²

GBP: 549.5423 trillion dilent

That was half of the continent.

That wasn't all. The four priests offered a great sword to Sungjin.

The sword was presented on a cushion shining like a pure white morning star but also held blackness darker than the sunset.

The handle of the sword was decorated with six wings. The wings changed color, just like the sword, between black and white.

The power of light and darkness lived in the weapon; it contained an undisputable power.

Even Durandal, the Sword of Heaven's Will, would look like a normal sword in front of it.

“Please take this sword.”

“What kind of sword is this?”

“We don’t know its real status or abilities. The Holy Pope ordered us to seal it because a strong pagan power is hidden inside. Master Sungjin could open up the power of this sword.”

“Let’s check the status.”

The Valkyrie said with a mechanical voice:

Now that you have conquered the territory, the gods accept you as the master of the Holy Magical Sword, formerly sealed. Do you want to check the status of the sword?

The Holy Magical Sword, that’s a funny name.

“Yes,” Sungjin answered.

Six wings spread in a heartbeat, and Sungjin saw the ability of the sword in front of him.

Nickname: The Holy Magical Sword

Crystal needed to activate the item: 3300

The Holy Sword Mode: Attack 200, defense 50, resistance 50, heroic power recovery 30 per second.

The Magical Sword Mode: Attack 250, 30 percent recovery of the damage.

The Real Name: The condition doesn’t fit, can’t be disclosed.

Skills: The condition doesn’t fit, can’t be disclosed.

The Holy Sword character 1: The condition doesn’t fit, can’t be disclosed.

The Holy Sword character 2: The condition doesn’t fit, can’t be disclosed.

The Magical Sword character 1: The condition doesn’t fit, can’t be disclosed.

The Magical Sword character 2: The condition doesn’t fit, can’t be disclosed.

With the same amount of crystals, a regular magic sword would have attack power of 100. The best sword of the four kingdoms, Durandal, had attack power of 200. But this Holy Magical Sword was much stronger.

“The average power is over Durandal...This is amazing!”

Level 0 Master - Chapter 87

But Rachel’s love was great. She showed the good that was beyond forgiveness. She was a real saint. But the king needed to create a world where it was easy to choose good over evil. It was Sungjin’s work to create a community where evil things need not be done to survive.

Using Rachel, the extreme religious point of view could be toned down.

Rachel was telling everyone that the new goddess doesn’t like abusing people or hunting witches, and, so far, it was working well. Although some were confused that she was forgiving the unforgivable. The collection from the church was no longer obligatory, and the tax rate became as low as that of Sevrantina. This progress confused the people of Rupellion. They were happy but didn’t understand how the system worked.

They were so oppressed.

Sungjin decided to take his time with this change. As the ruler, he didn’t have to rush to implement anything.

Yes, I have my homework.

There was still Eldorado, the kingdom of the Golden Wise King, that took up half of the continent, the absolute power that was ruling the continent with the Holy Pope Pedrian. He had been the one who forced a fight, pitting Sungjin against Pedrian. This would be Sungjin’s last task.

Looking at Sungjin in deep thought, Rachel asked him with a bright smile:

“Sungjin Oppa, we are lovers now, right?”

“Haw,” Sungjin leaned against the wall for support.

He felt like there was another huge task in front of him.

“Why?”

He couldn’t understand how she came to that conclusion. He was a smart man, but he had trouble understanding the thoughts of a child.

“Because we love each other.”

“How is that?”

“The goddess said your love tried to save me without any reward, and my love tried to save you from pain. So it is clear that we love each other!”

It was then Sungjin was able to understand the logical flow in Rachel’s head, and, with that, he developed a massive headache.

“Well, Rachel, about that. People don’t become lovers based off just those actions.”

“Why? We love each other.”

“That is...different from the love you are talking about.”

“But the goddess said we love each other.”

“That’s...hmm...I’m not saying it’s not love...but it is more of a general kind of love rather than between lovers...something...like love for humanity, yes, humanity.”

“Huh?” Rachel didn’t understand, and Sungjin didn’t know how to explain.

The gods are continuing to challenge me.

But he wouldn’t give up; he was determined to make Rachel understand the difference between romantic love and platonic love.

I won’t give up this easily...

“I don’t think I get it, but let’s do the love between lovers as well. That will make it work!” She ran into his arms to make him feel her soft and lovely skin.

He breathed in her sweet skin.

Ugh.

Sungjin didn’t know what to do. She was lovely and innocent. Moreover, he saw how attractive she would be when she grew up, and that excited him.

Stop.

He must restrain himself; it was safer.

“R...Rachel. That’s not the same. The love between lovers is not just being happy to see each other. Your heart pounds and you blush and feel shy...”

“That’s how I feel when I look at you.”

“Huh?” Sungjin looked at Rachel with blank eyes.

“When I look at you, my heart pounds; when I think of you my face becomes red; when I’m in your arms, I am so happy that I nearly pass out! That’s love, right?”

“Hmm, Well...hmmm...that’s...you’re still young...now maybe...but it will be different later...”

“I will keep loving you! I will be your lover forever!”

“Thank you for saying that...but let’s talk more about this later.”

“Why?”

Rachel kept asking questions, and it was getting more difficult for Sungjin to answer.

What should I say?

It was nice to think this cute and lovely child adored him and later when she turns into a beauty, she would still want to marry him. He wanted to keep her and take her later but...

That’s it.

Sungjin stopped the thought of a beast inside him. He had to keep his composure and get her young mind thinking in the right direction.

Let’s admit it, Rachel’s mind is also a great love.

She was still inexperienced, but she wanted to go to hell for him. That was love, the puppy love of a young child.

“Rachel.”

“Yes, Sungjin Oppa.”

“That is love.”

“Right?” Rachel’s eyes started to shine like stars.

“Yes, and thank you so much for loving me,” Sungjin answered sincerely.

“Hehehe.” Rachel blushed.

“But Rachel, the love between lovers is for when you are grown up both physically and mentally,” Sungjin didn’t avoid Rachel’s eyes and told her firmly.

“Hmm...Not now? Do I have to learn more to be an adult?”

“Don’t be sad. I’m not saying your love now is not as big or real as the love between lovers. It’s just a love with different color. Your love has given me something very beautiful.”

Passionate love between adults was a great thing, but the puppy love of this young child was also meaningful.

“So let’s have our love that we can’t have later.” Sungjin smiled and softly stroked Rachel’s head.

“When you grow up, let’s talk about the love of adults. I want to cherish this moment.”

“Cherish this moment.”

“Yes. So now that we’ve finished our work, should we go to the beach?”

“Let’s go to...Yeah!”

Rachel laughed. She had failed to become Sungjin’s lover, but she was happy that Sungjin appreciated her heart. She was happy to go to the beach with everyone.

“Yeah...the beach!”

Sungjin was happy with the result. He was glad he hadn’t avoided her questions.

This is the way to take the love from a child to an adult.

Next to them, Ereka sighed.

“Which room should I give to Rachel?”

“Don’t worry about her room; focus on how to drag him into your room.” With Eustasia’s comment, Ereka smiled gently.

“What can I do? Should I wait for Sungjin to take me?”

“You are not a bottle of wine that gets better with time.”

“He said he is busy with battles.”

“He keeps pushing it back because of your behavior! That’s why I can’t have him as well! When the frontline hesitates, the troops behind also struggle, don’t you know?”

“I said I’ll wait, and should we build more rooms in the castle? It’s okay for now, but we may need more rooms later.”

“Work on securing your honeymoon before worrying about other people’s rooms.”

Jenna sighed next to them.

My queen has to rush a bit. Sniff. It is becoming more complicated because of her.

“Maybe it’s better not to make him wait anymore,” said Eustasia like a seductive snake.

“Why?”

“You heard the goddess, right?”

“Yeah. Huh? Oh...well...you mean...”

“Yes, that. Don’t you think she meant that thing?”

“Do...do you think so?” Ereka’s face became red.

“It’s worth a try; it’s a win-win for us.”

“But...what if all six of us need to do it...”

“Maybe, but maybe we could do it one by one, right?”

“Perhaps,” Ereka nodded.

If that’s it, Sungjin would have his level and even if not...well...

It didn’t matter if that’s what the goddess meant or not; they would have done it with or without a grand reason.

Ereka became all red, but in her heart, she knew the goal she was now aiming for.

“I’m telling you all this because of our friendship. But I might be the one to do the testing. I won’t wait for you. You should know that,” clarified Eustasia.

“Okay, I got it.”

Sungjin was around the corner and didn’t hear the discussion among the girls. That was good. He had just solved a difficult task, and more were coming. It was better for now that he remain unaware.

As soon as he had cleared things up with Rachel, Sungjin tackled his next problem.

I'm facing my last fight.

He looked at the map of the continent; half was already his.

The other half belonged to Eldorado, the kingdom where gold rules everything, and there was the king Kapitle, ruler of the gold.

I wouldn't expect gods to get involved again.

It would be a human-on-human fight to find out who was the strongest of the continent. The first final of this game. If Kapitle wins, Sungjin would lose everything; if Sungjin wins, he could go forward as the conqueror of the continent.

Of course I will win, but it will be a great fight.

The Holy Pope Pedrian was a fanatic tyrant but on the battlefield, he was a truly strong adversary that had given Sungjin a thrill. He had no doubt that Kapitle would be an even better opponent.

What kind of a battle awaits me, and what kind of new members will join us?

His heart started to pound.

<Hidden Story – From the other side of the continent>

The Golden Wise King Kapitle laughed when he heard that everyone from Rupellion had surrendered to Sungjin. The black chess pieces in front of him all became white and rearranged themselves on the chessboard.

“Hahaha. That was unexpected.”

A fight between a young lion and an old fanatic. He expected victory to take longer, but it turned out to be quite a simple fight.

“That's a good thing for me.”

Pedrian was the difficult opponent, not Sungjin.

He didn't know how Pedrian could have lost using eight great Basilicas and his God. Sungjin's intelligence and fighting skills were not something he could ignore, but he still considered him weaker than Pedrian.

Sometimes, the weak will defeat the strong with luck. This would make it easier for other strong players in the game.

A child of god called on her god, a miracle I will only allow to happen once.

She was nothing more than just a high-level supporter.

But that much power is...

Kaboom.

The center of the chessboard collapsed, and the board fell down. All the white pieces bounced and scattered.

“Young lion, I praise your victory with your luck and miracles. As a reward...”

He stood up and sat down on his throne.

“I will deal with you.”

When the hunt is over, the hunting dog had to be killed.

Level 0 Master - Chapter 88

I heard it could be a madman who steals a person’s soul...

The rumors were all different; this aroused even more fear at the uncertainty, an illusionary castle that contained an unknown existence within. Nothing had ever been confirmed as no one returned after stepping inside.

They turned their shivering bodies. They had to get out of there quickly.

One step, two steps, the moment they were about to escape the trap of death...

Ring.

A soul-shaking bell resounded. The bell had a magic that intrigued the senses.

Ring, ring.

There was a secretive allure to following the rhythm. Following this was the thick scent of roses, which curled around their bodies. After caressing them, it caused their flesh to burn red. They ultimately turned around even while thinking that they shouldn’t.

“Ah...”

At that moment, they saw it. The trap that caused every man to forget the existence of death. The flower that had bloomed atop the castle walls was a rose. No, it was an attractive woman with a beauty surpassing a rose.

Her bright red hair swirled like roaring flames. The red lips below seemed to be full of blood, revealing a darker shade of red. The light purple cloth which was wrapped around her light brown skin was slightly transparent, covering and revealing at the same time. Her short skirt was split along the sides teasingly. Her chest was an astounding size, and her waist was narrow; the hips below flared out revealing unforgettable lines.

Every time she shook her body, the cloth twirled. Her strange, provocative dance heated the night. One step, two steps. The rumor of death awaiting within the castle was erased. Their bodies were possessed by the desire to see the woman close up. With excited bodies, they approached. Their eyes were bloodshot, and blood rushed to their heads. They were incapable of resisting their instincts.

Suddenly, the castle disappeared, and with it, the beauty, music, and sweet scent.

“Ah...”

The men who regained their senses turned to one another. They swallowed their disappointment as if woken from a dream but were immediately wrapped in fear having regained their bearings.

I...I lived.

If I had entered the castle...

Who knew if the woman's true form was witch or monster.

No one had returned alive to verify or dispel the rumors. They immediately turned and ran.

But...

Regret lurked in the deepest corners of their minds.

If only I had taken a closer look...

Perhaps they could have seen something better if they had taken a few more steps.

Perhaps they could have seen the skin of her body covered in the translucent cloth.

The woman was very seductive.

Not simply beautiful, but a woman who could incite a man's instincts and desires. The figure was engraved into their brains, the illusionary castle, the woman who had briefly introduced herself.

Although people said she was probably an old witch or a monster with the lower body of a snake, she was still the possessor of a deadly, seductive beauty.

In front of her was a floating mirror. It reflected the figures of the men running away.

“Huhu. They’re running. Weaklings.”

Watching the shivering men who believed they’d escaped death, she smiled mockingly.

“They think they were seduced.”

She had simply been dancing for her own amusement, and they had happened upon her, uninvited.

She had no interest in such pathetic men. What she wanted was the strongest man. The kind of man who could embrace her passionately. She found their stray thoughts amusing.

“Haa. Is there really no one like the man I’m waiting for.”

A black crow landed on her window-sill while she was sighing.

The crow with the golden eyes opened its beak.

“An order.” The talking crow was definitely a spirit.

“Hm. What is it?”

“There is an opponent for you to face.”

“Oh?”

“Cha Sungjin, the man who defeated the High Priest.”

“He defeated the High Priest?” Curiosity rose in the woman’s eyes.

“I have heard the rumors of a young lion in the southern kingdoms, but...”

She licked her lips. It was the figure of a spider licking its lips before a prey.

“I thought the rumors had been exaggerated, but it’s true?”

“Yes.”

“Haha. Fine, I should obviously greet such a man.”

She crossed her legs as if she was aroused. It was an alluring thought.

“In order to steal everything he has.”

The crow flew away.

“Of course.”

After sending the crow off, she touched the mirror once more.

“Is it him? The person who is in possession of half of the continent after defeating the High Priest Pedrian?”

She smiled after licking her lips.

She lifted her hand to caress Sungjin’s face. There was a fire in her eyes with her seductive gestures.

“Hm. Are you really a man who could defeat the Golden Wise King?” She mumbled with disbelief and expectation.

“Or were you simply lucky, having completed your role as a dispensable hunting dog to the Golden Wise King?”

Her eyes smiled with curiosity in Sungjin.

“I will know whether he is a man worthy of my body once I meet him.” Her abundant chest shook.

“Haha. Would the possessor of half of this continent be able to rouse me?”

She plastered herself closer to Sungjin’s body in the mirror in excitement.

Her clothes swayed as her chest slid down the mirror. She hugged her chest gently.

“I will be there soon, young lion. From today onwards, you will be my target.”

She placed a deep kiss on Sungjin’s mouth reflected in the mirror.

Then, she left, leaving behind a trail of thick perfume.

She covered the castle under sand, so that it could not be discovered. But the mirror within the castle kept reflecting Sungjin covered in red lip gloss.

It was like the pining of a passionate woman...but also, like a mark of death.

* * *

Chapter 1

First was the unification of the four kingdoms and soon after, the conquer of Rupellion.

Although Sungjin possessed a summoned body from a different dimension with no heroic powers as a level zero, he had become emperor, ruling half of the continent.

All that remained was the final battle with the Golden Wise King Kapitle.

Critics debated endlessly on whether the strong, with his old and cruel traditions, or the new force, with his youth and competitive spirit, would win.

The continent had survived with three balanced powers until now, but everyone felt that this was the time for the continent to be united. There was no way Sungjin would stop here.

He would continue until he reached a point of complete unification or utter annihilation. The question was when that time would come. Everyone predicted that the Golden Wise King would not remain still.

Until now, the Golden Wise King had been cautious because he was worried about a confrontation with the High Priest. But will the Golden Wise King treat Sungjin equally in the manner he had with the High Priest?

“He wouldn’t.”

“Oh, of course not.”

The heroes conversed between warm tea in a salon.

“Right now, the eight grand temples the Golden Wise King had been wary of have been destroyed; there is no hidden card the young lion can use.”

The Wise King had not only been wary of the High Priest, but the power he could ask for from the interfering god if forced.

Sungjin did not have such countermeasures.

In the Golden Wise King’s perspective, Sungjin had removed his rival for his benefit. It was perfect timing.

“Both will clash soon.”

“Who do you think will win?”

“Logically speaking, it would be the Golden Wise King...”

“But the young lion might be preparing something.”

The people analyzed it from every angle.

What is Sungjin preparing?

Who should they be rooting for?

Everyone was interested in what Sungjin was up to after having stabilized the Holy Nation.

Level 0 Master - Chapter 89

“Yes, Sungjin.”

After putting down their bags, they parted.

While they were changing into their swimsuits, the girls glanced at each other. Although their glances were very brief, it was a woman’s ability to be able to perceive everything in a single moment.

Ereka looked at Eustasia’s well-trained body and looked at herself.

She does have a toned, thin body.

Ereka looked at the mirror.

But I’m not so bad either.

From top to bottom, shouldn’t she be able to call herself curvy?

But her self-evaluation was not important.

What will Sungjin think of me? I suppose he wouldn’t be aroused.

For Sungjin to initiate a romantic relationship with her would probably never happen, no matter how many times she imagined it.

But wouldn’t this time be different?

Until recently, Sungjin had been busy with conquests, but they were on vacation now.

Perhaps, that meant Sungjin would be less restrained and react differently.

Sungjin examined Ereka's blushing figure as he marched up to her.

He grabbed her body, and they both fell on the sand.

"You've bloomed beautifully."

"Tha... Thank you."

Looking down on her neck, he brought his mouth closer to her.

He bit down on her neck softly while ordering:

"Give me your beauty."

"But... Here..."

"The white sand is the perfect setting."

"But we shouldn't..."

"Let's forget about everything else and enjoy our youth."

Oh, if you are so forward I will be forced to...

"That kind of situation is forcing oneself rather than being forced."

Ereka was startled at Eustasia's words.

"Wha... What are you talking about?!"

Did she accidentally say that out loud?!

Eustasia snorted at her vehement denial.

"It's written on your face."

"What are you saying? Don't presume things."

"Stop denying, and let's plan."

"Plan?"

"He's wearing a swimsuit too. Let's start off with hanging onto each of his arms, saying we should start playing."

"Hang on his arms?"

“Exactly. And then we will gradually lead his hands to a waist, stomach, thigh, or anywhere else.”

“Is...Is that not too forward...”

“What are you saying? We should deny ourselves passion on this kind of beach. Skinship is just the beginning. Starting from there, we will tease him into the bed with the excuse of appreciating the scenery. Then...”

“There’s children...”

“Children should grow learning what the adults do to become better; the highlight of this plan would be to excuse all three of us and go someplace private.”

“Oh my.” Ereka’s cheeks flamed in embarrassment.

What will they do after they disappear?

“But if he says that’s not proper.”

“What proprietary? This is a vacation on a beach. We can ask for some things. No, we need to ask for many things.”

“Should we?” Ereka was nearly convinced.

It was true that they were on a vacation, and Sungjin was enjoying the taste of victory and a break from battles. Shouldn’t she be able to appeal that she would be there if he wanted her?

“You got it?”

“Yes, I’ll try.”

They were both determined.

Rachel tilted her head.

“What are they talking about?”

“You don’t need to know.”

Beside her, Jenna waved her tail.

It’s infuriating that they are about to approach him without me, but I’ll overlook this since His Majesty wouldn’t make a move otherwise.

The plan was just beginning.

They had to succeed; they wouldn't want the beds placed in the corners by Rittier to go to waste.

They went to the beach with beating hearts.

Sungjin greeted them...

... Already submerged in the water.

"Ah, you're finally out. The sea is cold; do some warmups before entering."

I didn't think he would be in the water already.

Ugh, I was aiming for a natural skinship after hooking our arms together. He's always a move ahead of me.

To think, he would disregard their plans and enter the waters. To think, he would attempt to swim after coming to the beach. But they couldn't stop him from swimming either.

What should we do?

Let me think for a moment.

Eustasia shook her head at Ereka's questioning eyes.

"Haha. It's refreshing to enter the waters after so long." Sungjin laughed brightly, ignorant of the girls' frustrated hearts.

Haa...Is he really just planning to swim?

Ereka sighed in exasperation, but the truth was slightly more complicated.

Unlike Sungjin's upper half, which looked as if he was enjoying the great nature of the beach, below the water, the lower half of his body revealed his youth.

Sungjin smiled in satisfaction.

My prediction was correct.

He knew that his healthy body would show a reaction as soon as the girls appeared in such an outfit. He also knew that this reaction would be shown quite clearly in his current swimsuit.

He had escaped to the waters beforehand so as to hide it from the ladies.

Well, there's no other choice.

He smiled to smooth out the interaction. He wouldn't be a man if he wasn't aroused by the beautiful sight before him. It was nice to take in the view without having them know all the details.

Wow, they look amazing.

This was a masterpiece drawn on a canvas called nature.

Rachel still possessed her cuteness in her yellow swimsuit, which highlighted her youth. As the cursed tattoo had disappeared from her back, she was the evidence of what he had been able to protect, bouncing around the beach in excitement.

Jenna, despite her attempts in hiding her pout, was still stubbornly cute. With a tube squeezed onto her with her tail swishing in the background, she looked very much like a puppy on the beach.

They had pure and clean skin, they looked like two jellies bouncing around. But they didn't pose much of a problem as they were simply charming. The incentives of this masterpiece lay someplace else.

Ereka with her white summer dress smiled at him. Her golden hair glowed under the sun and was brighter than the sun itself. Looking at the curves of her body caused music to sing in his ears. She was still soft despite the tenseness in all the hidden places, and her chest protruded, similar to ripe peaches. Her waist was thin and her hips wide; there was nothing more to add to her body line. Her thighs were clear of any blemish.

Summer was a season to be worshipped.

Beside the shining sun was a moon that could not be ignored.

It was Eustasia.

Her long straight hair gave off a silver light. Her bold bikini showed the limit of fabric that could be used, giving a dangerous aura. How many women in the world would dare to pull that off?

Aside the personality, if she did not have the courage, it would have been impossible. But she had the right. Her firmly-toned body did not have a single blemish. Her skin was well balanced to the point a drop of water would have simply rolled off her. Her breasts were barely covered and squeezed out at an elegant cut, and her movements were as smooth as the flowing water of nature.

Her body seemed capable of reciprocating the force of a man and threw an invitation at him to try. He was certain that if he pressed on the skin it would be as tight as rubber yet soft as a pillow.

Sigh...It's a sight that's unfortunate to be seen only by myself, but all the more valuable because I'm the only one privy to it.

Sungjin tasted the sight before him while smiling at the girls. He was satisfied by simply looking, but the girls were disappointed.

Even on the beach he is....

Eustasia whispered to Ereka.

"This isn't fun. I'll try to cause a scene, so don't argue."

"What are you trying to do?"

"Watch."

Eustasia argued with Sungjin:

"Are we really going to swim by ourselves when we're at the beach?"

When she put it as such, he couldn't object. Sungjin asked her:

"Is there something else you want to do?"

"Let's play ball."

"A ball game...What are the rules?"

Sungjin was thinking of beach volleyball. But as this wasn't Earth, he didn't imagine that the rules would be the same.

"Simple: we divide into two teams and set up a goal in the waters of each team accordingly. A body fight is allowed to fight for the ball, but grabbing the opponent's body or hitting them is forbidden."

"Hm..."

You cannot hold the ball for more than 5 seconds, and you need to pass it to your team member or put in on the water to get it back."

It's similar to basketball.

Although it wasn't exactly the same; this was a game without a victor. It was something that could be played comfortably.

"Okay, let's try this. How should the teams be divided?"

"Huhu. Ereka and I will be on one team, so you can have a trio with Jenna and Rachel. Since they're kids, I'll let you count the two as one."

"Okay."

It didn't matter if he won or lost or enjoyed it.

There was no need to gain a victory in this game. Sungjin decided to comfortably aim for the win, but realized the truly difficult part of this game soon after.

Hm, this is awkward.

A ball lay in a big circle between two smaller circles. To be the victor, he would have to fight with his body, but...

"Ah, um..."

As he approached Ereka with the ball, she shyly spoke:

"It's...It's still a game."

She pushed against Sungjin with her entire body...

Her soft shoulder came into contact with his firm chest. The skin of a young man and woman came into contact. Her shaking golden hair tickled his side.

As he fell back awkwardly, her chest shook. Under the sun the sight was truly abundant.

Mm...This is.

Sungjin missed the timing to grab the ball. In that second, Ereka passed the ball to Eustasia.

"Wow, you're really good."

"Ehe, My Queen, that was amazing!"

Beside him the two young children spouted nonsense that didn't help.

With that, a goal.

Sungjin moved to score a counterpoint but...

"I'll steal that!" Eustasia threw her body at him boldly.

"Ha!"

Sungjin read her movements and passed the ball to Jenna.

"Oh."

Even after he had sent the ball away, Eustasia didn't stop and fell straight into his arms.

The line of her shoulder touched his chest. Her lean arms touched his abs. The scent of the sea and sweat on a woman's body hit his nose. She was literally naked aside from her barely-covered private parts.

Uh.

Sungjin suppressed the instinct to wrap around her.

This is getting awkward.

The rules of the game would have caused heated fights between men. But for it to stand between a man and a woman...

He became uncomfortable and unsure.

Or, perhaps that had been her aim all along.

But to speak of a physical fight for a ball, there was no appropriate place he could shove away, nonetheless the chest and hips.

Hm. I should consider outfighting this instead.

Sungjin gave up on winning immediately and turned to a strategy of whisking the ball away once it touched the water's surface.

On top of that, he avoided any body contact and passed the ball away if he was tackled.

This ultimately lowered the awkward situations...or so it seemed.

Huhuhu. Now that the atmosphere's a bit more heated, it's time for the next step.

Jenna waved her tail.

Your Majesty, I've prepared another trap.

A solution that would truly cause a reaction out of Sungjin.

The time was approaching for the medicine to react under the sun's heat.

Level 0 Master - Chapter 90

“Kyah!”

Ereka panicked a beat later and hurriedly hid her chest. On top of that, she gathered her knees in order to sink lower. It was a hurried attempt in covering up as much as she could.

But that made the sight more erotic. If she had been blatantly confident, he would have felt that she was a healthy figure made from great nature's primitive ages. But her embarrassed and defenceless sight was like a fawn served on a platter for the lion.

“Kuk!”

Sungjin couldn't respond, frozen in his place.

A weak beautiful lady who was extremely susceptible to his advances was rooted to her spot.

In her own embarrassment she didn't dare to defend herself and remained crouched.

An unintended attack while his defences were down.

She gathered his attention because of her attempts to cover herself.

The sight was much too lovely to ignore.

Eustasia, who had been watching the entire scene beside him, silently praised the sneaky move.

As expected of her, to reveal everything in an unforeseen situation. It is an amazing strategy that will shake his stubborn mind.

And to think that she would put on a face of unexpectedness at her own reveal.

Fine, then, I'll help.

Eustasia drew up a figure of a sword within her mind.

Except, this was not a sword to cut down enemies.

It was a sword which could cut meager things like paper.

And that sword sliced off the strings of Eustasia's bikini, which were barely holding on.
Just like how she had imagined it in her mind.

With the sound of rustling clothes, Eustasia's simming suit fell off her body.

And her flawless skin was revealed like the nakedness of primitives.

"Oh my, did I tighten the strings too much?"

After claiming the entire scene as an accident, she turned her body away.

From Sungjin's point of view, he could only see the side of her body. But that view was more enticing, causing him to automatically dream up the image of what her front view would be.

This is... Dangerous.

Sungjin pressed down his instinctive question for Eustasia to turn around and averted his eyes.

"Ahaha... This is awkward. I'll do a lap around that rock over there, so organize yourselves."

Sungjin first decided to remove himself from the situation.

It was a strategic retreat. If he remained any longer, he didn't know what he would do. He turned into a beast when enticed.

He immediately threw himself into the ocean.

Ereka's face crumpled as she looked at Sungjin's figure disappearing among the waves. "What should I do? Now Sungjin will think I'm not modest enough."

"Definitely not. I think for our first attempt this was a success." Eustasia smiled a knowing smile.

Sungjin had turned away immediately, but she had seen that he was shaken by the display.

"Huhu. He is not an impregnable fortress, I see. Well, I have achieved my greatest accomplishment of my lifetime this holiday."

After the happening, Sungjin maintained an adequate distance.

The girls complained about the modest game of sandcastles, wishing for a more interactive game, but he ignored them.

If he was incited any further than this he knew he wouldn't be able to hold back.

The girls felt his defensive atmosphere and realised they couldn't go any further that day. They helplessly went along.

Night came.

Sungjin lay down on his bed.

Still, it was quite fun today.

The sandcastle they had built together was impressive. Under Ereka's orders, dinner was delicious, and the fireworks that had come after were equally as grand.

There was a line they hadn't dare cross, but it was still fun.

Games are fun, but a vacation has its own charms.

Perhaps it was because he had never taken a family vacation after his father had passed away and his mother started working. There was something new about taking a vacation with several people.

And on top of that, the ball game had been...

Sungjin's brain immediately drew up that moment's scenery.

It was especially beautiful.

The bodies that shook vibrantly under the sun were like pieces of art.

Sungjin bolted from his bed.

It seems that I am too excited this evening.

Or perhaps the food this evening was too good for the body.

Or perhaps it was because the girls were right next door.

Sungjin gave up sleeping and went out to the balcony.

The stars filled the night sky.

It was a clear sky that was impossible to see on earth, especially the cities.

It's beautiful.

Sungjin stood appreciating the night sky.

"Are you also unable to sleep?" someone asked beside him. When Sungjin turned around, Ereka was standing there.

"Oh, you're awake?"

"Yes. I'm here to view the night sky."

"Let's do it together."

They decided to enjoy the coincidence and gathered in the balcony.

"What were you thinking about?"

"I was thinking about how nice it was to take a vacation all together."

"That's nice. It seems I'm not the only one." Ereka smiled calmly.

"Although it would be nice to have this kind of opportunity again... we'll be busy soon, won't we?"

"It's unavoidable. I'd prefer some time to prepare, but Kapitle won't wait."

The war wasn't over.

He had attained Rupellion, but his largest foe, Eldorado and the Golden Wise King, still remained.

And since the three-way balance was gone, the power fight between two nations was inevitable.

Who would gain the central power of the continent?

It was a competition of ambitions between two men.

"But let's return when there's an opportunity. Everyone seemed to enjoy this. Ah, of course myself, too."

"Yes, we should."

Ereka smiled brightly and stared at Sungjin's shoulder.

After gathering her breath several times, she leaned her head on Sungjin's shoulder.

Hm?

Sungjin panicked briefly but didn't show it and tilted his shoulder slightly so that she could be more comfortable.

Phew.

Ereka was silently relieved.

Looking at the two with narrowed eyes, Jenna waved her tail under the blanket.

Uhuhu. Nice.

The day had been Eustasia's time, but the night was Ereka's.

I prepared, because I thought oppa might not be able to sleep.

She had sent the other two into deep sleep for just that moment.

Looking at the empty bottle, she smiled, satisfied.

Then, Your Majesty, please spend a good time.

Jenna burrowed under the blanket.

Ereka looked at the stars while leaning her body against Sungjin's shoulder.

Even the same constellations looked different depending on who she was with.

Right now, with Sungjin, the stars looked more brilliant.

Ahh, I'm so happy.

She would be satisfied remaining in that position throughout the whole night.

Would Sungjin know her racing heart?

Did he know her infinite happiness at simply leaning her shoulder against his body?

Was it because of the moonlight?

Or the starlight?

Or was it the whispering night?

Ereka decided to work up her courage.

But I should ease him into the conversation.

She started with normal conversation.

“I have heard that the Golden Wise King ruthlessly exploits his people for his own greed. I’ve heard that there were many who died of starvation, and several died in labor working in the mines.”

“Yes, I’ve read the report.”

The Golden Wise King Kapitle: he was a smart king.

He didn’t torture his people without reason.

He didn’t make his people suffer due to religion or suspicion.

But he exploited them and treated them like objects, causing continuous death.

Like how the wastewater was left to rot on earth, and the workers were left vulnerable because of the company’s disregard times ten.

That had been Sungjin’s thought while reading the report.

“If Sungjin wins, the people in that country will have easier lives.”

“I will.”

Ereka smiled at Sungjin’s promise.

And I’m sure there will be another woman who will vie for Sungjin in that country too, I suppose?

Her smile was forlorn and clean and warm.

It’s hopeless. The person I love isn’t someone who can be satisfied with a single country, after all.

It was obvious he would gain as much affection there.

But I have already decided to love him.

So she would not be disappointed or sad about such things.

Instead, she would maintain his inner court so that he could achieve anything he wanted.

How could the sun shine on one flower?

“Sungjin.”

“Hm?”

“You’ve said something before about raising your level that the goddess had told you.”

“Hm? Ah, well.... Yes.”

Sungjin, unlike himself, gave a vague confirmation. The clue that the goddess had given him was not certain.

But she had said this:

When you establish a deeper relationship with the girls of their individual power in this world, their powers will also be shared with you.

A deep relationship.

Did that mean that, or something else? It was a clue that was open to interpretation, but it was an embarrassing subject to bring up.

“Now that we are against the Golden Wise King, we need more than simple preparations. So...would you test that clue with me?”

Test.

Having said her piece, Ereka’s cheeks turned red.

I finally said it.

She had said it as if to go along with the atmosphere, but it was a bold statement.

Kyah, what should I do?

How would Sungjin react?

Sungjin’s heart skipped a beat.

Ereka had implied it, but he knew what she was referring to.

A certain invitation stemming from the right atmosphere.

As soon as he thought of that, his body became excited and his blood raced.

His head was already providing images.

“E... Ereka? That's.... It's not certain....”

Even in the midst of his excitement, Sungjin attempted to worm his way out.

“Even if... we are interpreting it incorrectly, I'm okay if it's Sungjin. I wish to see the world you create, too.”

She could do it in confirmation. Ereka closed her eyes gently.

At the sign that he was given permission to kiss her, or do something more, Sungjin's heart started to thud more heavily.

Below the starry night sky.

A girl giving him a permissive smile.

He couldn't deny that it was lovely.

With her illustrious hair and golden body, with her willing heart to do anything for him, she was beautiful in appearance and heart.

The lion suddenly hugged the young fawn.

Ereka's body trembled minutely.

Fi... finally...?

She had always imagined it, but experiencing it in reality was a different matter.

Sungjin's breath tickled against her neck.

She could feel that he was also excited by his breathing.

Her cheeks turned red as her heartbeat raced.

“Thank you, Ereka.”

Sungjin whispered. “I'm happy too.”

Ereka replied in her mind. Her voice was not working.

“But I think it's wrong to experiment with this. Even if it's for a greater fight, I want to protect this for a true love.”

"I... I'm okay with it."

"I know. But this is something I want to protect as a man."

Not to use her beautiful heart as a way to achieve his victory but to protect it using his power.

That was the kind of fight he wished to do.

"Sungjin."

"For the people and the greater purpose. It's a beautiful thought, but let's leave that for love."

"Ok."

Sungjin let her go.

"I'm tired now. I'm retiring."

"Yes. Good night."

Sungjin closed his door, returning to his room. Ereka looked up at the stars and sighed gently.

It wasn't... something I said with the intention of sacrificing myself.

She had been expectant even if she was scared and shy.

But it's all right.

Counting stars against his shoulder was a precious memory. She was going to keep it in her heart forever and smile, perhaps, everytime she recalled the moment.

Besides, even if they hadn't gotten too far, Sungjin had hugged her.

Sungjin's embrace was large and warm.

Ereka rubbed her hands.

But I'm still disappointed. It would have been a better night if we had kissed.

Perhaps a later day. She turned to her room in both disappointment and happiness.