

MEMORIZE - Chapter 19

MEMORIZE EP.19

Momentary Separation. (1/3)

Please continue reading on

Puk! Pak!

Thud.

I leaned onto the tree after I destroyed the head of the very last Deadman. Deadmen, whose heads had been obliterated, now filled the area.

I tried my best to prolong the fight as much as possible, but it had ended way too quickly. It was just a one-sided massacre, and I wasn't satisfied. Rather than relieving my tension, it just left an ugly taste in my mouth.

Spit.

I spat at the wreck in front of me. I didn't know if my nature was being mutinous at having forcefully suppressed my desire for wanton slaughter, as it seemed to have reared its ugly head. I felt increasingly frustrated in my heart. I took a deep breath to calm myself, but it felt like I was just fanning it bigger. I suddenly realized that I might have never wanted to block these feelings in the first place.

"Filth. What a joke, this just ruins my appetite. "

Smacking my lips for a while, I couldn't beat down the rising bloodlust within and smashed the tree next to me.

Bang! Usususu.

Without using any magic power, but just with pure muscle strength, the tree collapsed with a heavy sound. This relieved some tension, but the bloodlust within me didn't wash away completely.

The party must have escaped by now. I really wanted to burn down this whole forest right now, but I forcefully calmed myself down. You never knew if there were other monsters over the stone wall. I couldn't afford to waste time if I wanted to collect the arrows and worry about the guys.

Well, there was no one looking anyway. I gathered the magic I had left alone till now and moved my feet.

Trees, forests and the scenery quickly grazed past me. Putting the time I spent coming here to shame, I returned back to the pile of rock I was at before.

While I was picking out the arrows stuck to Deadmen' foreheads, I didn't see any hints of my party. As planned, they seemed to have left immediately after I entered the forest.

"One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight.... This much should be plenty."

Even though I wanted to put the arrows straight into my pouch, I quickly shook off the foreign substance from the arrows, as An-sol might throw a fit if she saw them like that.

'Time to head out.'

I didn't know if An-Hyun and the party were still outside, so I walked slowly. Before I jumped over the wall, I turned back and looked at the silent forest for one last time.

The forest was still the same. Before and now, the trees still looked no different. I had no such thoughts when I was escaping the forest in the past. I just kept on running in the past, and it had felt like I had left the forest in a blink of an eye.

However, I was now different from back then. I absentmindedly watched the forest for a while. I began to feel lighter as if a huge burden was lifted from me.

After I enjoyed a short sentimental break, I jumped over the wall. I wanted this deep unsatisfying feeling to disappear. I had other important things to worry about.

After I nimbly jumped over the stone wall, the scene I saw was beyond, way beyond my expectation. The road I was on right now was bumpy, but there was evidence of that it was made by the hands of people. At first glance, it wasn't easy to see it, but there were shapes on the rough sides of the road.

A vast horizon of an endless plain awaited at the start of the road. The surroundings were dull. Every now and then, a soft wind would blow to bring some life into the scene.

Even when I rubbed my eyes, I didn't see any monsters. Unfortunately, I didn't see my party either. No matter where I looked, even when I used my magic, I didn't find a single hint of their whereabouts. I suddenly thought that they might have just abandoned me.

It wasn't possible to simply judge on their propensity, though.

When there were 3 or more tall, linear shapes in the surrounding, the greater the chance of being ambushed. However, I couldn't just base that on just a simple predisposition.

If I put the worry that they had abandoned me away, then it was most likely that they were waiting for me until something happened to them. During the Rites of Passage, there were many other types of monsters besides the Deadmen. No matter what happened, I decided to find where they went and looked for traces of the party.

Just a clue, trying to find a footprint wasn't that difficult. As I patiently followed the stone wall, I found sunken footprints left behind by sports shoes. It looked like they had jumped the wall here.

As I kept walking in the direction where the soil was swept away, I found a clue that the party had gathered here as I had expected. After I confirmed that there was nothing around, it seemed that they were waiting for me here. After I confirmed the truth, the tinge of betrayal, that had stealthily took a corner of my heart, disappeared like melting snow.

I crouched down in the area where the party was, I slowly searched around and found one footprint after the other. If I had skills of a Ranger or a Trapper, they could have deduced how and why the situation occurred, as well as when, where and how many people were involved. Of course, that level of deduction was impossible for me. All I was able to do at the moment, was use my sharp eyesight with my Abilities.

Augmented by my perception, I compared the footprints one by one. I committed the prints created by the sports shoe into memory and began to look for other footprints. It seemed like the party had performed a shuffle dance since the footprints were all over the place. This made it difficult to distinguish one from the other and felt like it would take some time. Suddenly, an uneasy thought passed through my mind, but I told myself that it was way too early to come to a conclusion, and continued my search.

After I spent enough time to drink a cup of tea, I finished my analysis. I stretched my legs and stood up. Excluding the footprints of the party, I found no other strange footprints. If I was nit-picking, I did find one deep imprint. However, due to another sneaker's print on top of it, it was difficult to judge if it was from the party or not.

It certainly wasn't Deadman's, as there was no trail of dragging on the soil. The fact that it might have been a boss monster came to my mind, but I immediately shook the thought out of my head. It had only been half a day since we started, and there were specific conditions for boss monsters to appear.

I put the thought of the boss monster to the corner on my head. A revelation never came. There was only one solution left. Even though I knew that it wouldn't work, I started to awaken my magic circuits.

In a single moment, I pulled out an explosive amount of magic power and activated the Third Eye. What I was about to do was different than just simply checking the other party's user information.

I could never have imagined that this kind of situation would arise, where I had to activate my magic. It was a race against time and I couldn't think of any other solution. They could all be killed while I wasted time uselessly, trying to conserve magic power.

Currently, I was going to use my Third Eye to not examine the present, but the 'past.' This was an exceptionally Unique Ability, through which I could even observe a higher dimension if specific conditions were met. That was why looking at the present, past and the future was possible with this Ability.

Just when I was about to start worrying, a scene seemingly penetrated my sight and I naturally focused on it.

PAK!

"Urgg...."

It was only for single a second, but the image flashed on my retina, which twisted up, and then a huge trauma hit my eye. The heated pupils felt like they were being burnt on a blazing fire. As I rubbed both of my eyes reflexively, I let out a bitter laughter.

Just one second. For one second I saw an image from the past, but The Third Eye got cancelled automatically. After a little, the pain in the eyes subsided, and I mumbled with a lethargic voice.

"Ha.... Haa. 96 magic points and yet my limit is only one second.... This is driving me nuts."

Maybe, just maybe... but in the end, my Magic Attribute couldn't handle the Unique Ability Overdrive. This had just reaffirmed how high rank the Third Eye was, and I was filled with regret.

Looking at the past was equivalent to seeing into the future. It was different than simply predicting the future, it was an issue of different dimensions. I thought it might be a possible, as The Third Eye was S rank magic, but due to forced manifestation, the rank was reduced by two. Although a rank was recovered through Hwajung, It was only possible for the current me to review the present phenomena. Handling the past and the future was quite premature.

The pain was slowly subsiding, but right now, my vision was blurry. I think it was an aftereffect of the rebound from getting the magic cancelled. Fortunately, as time passed, my sight began to sharpen. The loss of sight seemed to be only temporarily.

I had unintentionally used a dangerous method, but fortunately, there was one thing I managed to fish out.

It was only for a one second, but I had seen the 'past.' I sighed loudly, as I remembered the scene that ignited my retinas. I did my best to separate the gems from ordinary stones and had barely managed to get them out of the forest. However, it seemed that more troublesome things awaited me.

I could understand if I was lacking the power, but the reality, of having the power and still having to be careful about its use, made me depressed. If nothing else, I could make a ruckus in the Rite of Passage, but that was the very last resort.

It was like climbing mountains after mountains.

TN:

A thank you to our editor who is on short loan, really improved the quality. And thank you to all the readers, who has been supporting since my LMS days.

Below is a list of top 6 people from Randomizer, and the game I will be giving away. The winner of the giveaway is Katsu! Congrats will be contacting you via Disqus email.

MEMORIZE EP.20

Momentary Separation. (2/3)

Please continue reading on

Thanks! My throat was parched and you bought me a beer, thanks a lot. Your name is.... what? Kim Su-Hyun? From that small town of Myul? Of course I heard about it! That incident of the Wailing Cave is rather famous.... he he. Wow, meeting a celebrity and even being treated to beer, how could I ever repay you? Oh Right. How about I tell you a story. Would you like to listen to it?

What? You don't want to? Wait, just give me a moment and listen to my story. You will definitely be interested. It's about that widely spread rumor that the fierce Soul Commander heard about during the Rite of Passage. Yeah, that Soul Commander. Everyone in Hall Plain had to go through the Rite of Passage. Sit down. The place Angel's pulled a lot of crap at, that Rite of Passage.

There is so many back stories about that place. Think about it. Everyone is so busy just trying to survive, who would even want to piss around a monster infested area for seven days? There was this one crazy son of a bitch, though. He traveled through the entire area for seven days like it was his playground. The possibility of coming face to face with a Boss Monster just is much higher. Hm? What am I talking about? I have never met you before? I thought that you were a fairly sincere guy. What I meant is.... but before that, could you get me another beer please? Heehee... Thank you!

Try to remember. Do you recall those yellow and blue roofs? Yes. Yellow is the Rest Room, and Blue is the Safe Point. The first thing you see when you enter is that warning sign, right? You can't stay in the Rest Room for more than a day, or two days in Safe

Point. Otherwise, the chances of a Boss Monster emerging is 100%. Ah... That thing still makes me shudder. It looked like an Alien, and munched on humans like it was a tasty morsel...

Yup, we have met me before, but whatever. I ran like crazy. The funny thing is, taking the different Starting, Rest, and Safe Points into consideration, there is one other Point. You hearing this for the first time? Well, that's obvious. Where is it, you ask?

On the outskirts of the map, if you come out from the direction where the forest intersects, a big road comes up. I still remember it. That bumpy road. You can't go down that road, though. Wraith are gathered down there in droves. Although, if you follow the road, a city will appear. Still, who would ever bother to go there? I didn't even want to go into the forest in the first place. Even if you head for the city, the number of people who manage to reach there alive is few. We call that city a Trap Point. It's literally a Trap Point.

The Trap Point is a modern city with abundant amounts of food. It's a place that reminds you of the sweetness of Earth. It makes you want to never leave, since it takes advantage of human mentality.

A warning sign? Yeah, there is one, but it's different to the other signs. Just a simple scribble that you would think nothing of it. Anyway, that city tests you mentally and cleverly twists your mind. It makes you never want to leave. There are many Players that just become complacent once they step inside. The Players just live in comfort, thinking that they can stay there safely for seven days. Once they become complacent, it's game over.

On the third day in the city.... Do you know what happens? Huhu. Hm? How do I know this? Hahaha.... Well, I'm just going to drink more.

As the evening came, I could see the day slowly turning darker. It was still a bit early to say it was evening. I saw dark clouds, and was worried it might rain as well.

As I was walking on the bumpy road, I felt impatient and anxious, waiting for a village to appear. I decided to slightly increase my walking speed. I increased my speed by sending magic to my legs. Now walking faster, I thought about the image I saw through The Third Eye.

The short, one second scene allowed me to guess what had happened to the party. The scene I saw was like this: An-Hyun had thrown away his shield and was running with An-Sol on his back. I didn't know why, but he had a look of urgent desperation on his face.

Lee Yu-Jung had a very dark look on her face. Whether it was due to worry or anger, she was following behind An-Hyun with a complicated expression. Only Kim Han-Byeol seemed calm as she followed last, holding the sword and shield An-Hyun had thrown away.

They had some injuries, but I didn't know if they were from an ambush or maybe something else entirely. It looked like something had certainly happened to An-Sol. For now, I followed the path An-Hyun and the party had taken. As I kept following the man made path, I was sure that the village would come up soon. I felt confident that I would be able to reunite with the party there.

Just what had they been ambushed by? Just what had happened, for them to look so desperate? Concern didn't want to leave my mind, but no matter how much I thought about it, no answers reached me. I decided to just listen to their story later and continued running.

In the middle of my run, I felt a cold droplet on my cheek. I stopped just for a moment and looked at the sky, that was starting to fill with raindrops.

Plop. Plop. Plop. Plop.

As I was looking at the intermittent raindrops, I reflexively wiped my cheek. I hoped I would reach the city before the rain got any heavier. As if my prayer had been answered, I saw a cluster of buildings with my eyes far off in the distance.

I was certain that the party had entered the village. However, whether due to monsters in some parts of the village I wasn't sure if they had entered safely. If I knew this before, I should have come here straight away instead of wasting time.

Meanwhile, the number of the falling raindrops slowly increased. I wanted to avoid walking on the rain soaked earth, turned into sludgy mud. As I slowed down and trudged towards village, I spread out my magic detection. I immediately stopped, when I felt something off with the village.

"Wha, what is it?"

I stuttered out unknowingly. I composed myself and increased the precision of my detection magic, but the result was still the same. Surprised I immediately used my magic and arrived at the village in an instant. I gasped when I saw the modern buildings at the entrance.

'A building from Earth can be found in the Rite of Passage? And not just one, but a town of them?'

This village, no this city, it was difficult to call it a village. As I thought, the party had entered this city. I felt four presences, so it seemed everyone had safely arrived.

However, that wasn't what I was worried about. First, I had no idea what kind of monsters lied waiting inside. Second, what I seeing was a modern city.

The buildings in Hall Plain didn't reflect modern design, but were built like something out of the Middle Ages. My first life I had spent in Hall Plain, was a chore of getting used to such aspects. Yet now the buildings of Earth were right in front of me.

Because of this unexpected situation complex thoughts whirled around in my mind, but I managed to calm myself and observed the city. When people entered Hall Plain for the first time, they had a challenge of adjusting their lives.

Life in Hall Plain wasn't comfortable compared to Earth, where science had flourished. In the Rite of Passage, buildings were built in similar way as Hall Plain, so people would have an easier time adjusting. However, I hadn't ever heard of or even seen something like the scene in front of me.

Unless the Angel host had gone crazy, it was impossible for such buildings to be placed in the Rite of Passage. I rubbed my eyes, but the scene in front of me didn't change at all. The Angels must be plotting something with this. This made me recall a story I heard from a Swordsman.

'The Trap Point is a modern city with abundant amounts of food. It's a place that reminds you of the sweetness of the Earth. It takes advantage of your human mentality, and makes you want to stay forever.'

When I recalled the information about the Trap Point, I began to understand what I was seeing. Before I explained about Trap Point, I first have to explain about Boss Monsters. To put it plainly, it was impossible to slay the Boss Monsters in Hall Plain. Numerous people had seen such creatures, and they all had reach the same conclusion. It's impossible to kill it. Always flee on sight.

There were some conditions for Boss Monsters to appear. You had to use the Rest Room for more than a day, or use the Safe Point for more than two days. This was no different than an Angel's warning you to keep moving, rather than being pulled into a sense of security by a safe area.

I felt my my body tighten. I was begining to understand the emptiness and silence of the city. Nobody among the party in my first life, even with their high Attributes, had managed to see Hall Plain except for An-Sol. I linked my speculation to the city in front of me, and came to a conclusion. No matter how astounding their abilities were, they would have never been able to handle a Boss Monster.

After I let out a deep sigh, I entered the city. The nostalgia of seeing such building for the first time in ten years hit me, but I had to find my party first.

As I entered the city, the grey colored buildings greeted me. My heart was disturbed by how this dark city greeted me with its gloomy rays of light.

The feeling that only skillfully honed people could sense, the scent of death. I wondered how many people this city had killed.

TN:

This chapter get's a bit confusing with how city and village is being interchanged. I think this was done intentionally by the author, and is explained by this line "This village, no this city, it was difficult to call it a village."

A big thanks to Mali, who was on temporary loan from xant and minions. His editing on series called: The Bears Bear a Bare Kuma, check it out.