

## M. in Hell 451

Chapter 451 - Aernor Delegation (2)

“Ah... Ahn!”

Han Seol-Ah’s erotic moans filled Oh Kang-Woo’s ears.

Kang-Woo stopped what he was doing and narrowed his eyes. “Ummm, darling.”

“Haaa, haaa. Yes, K-Kang-Woo?”

“Could you do something about your voice...?”

Kang-Woo stared at her with a sour expression. Seol-Ah’s face turned as red as a tomato. She clenched her clothes and bit her lip.

“B-but...!” she shouted. “I can’t help it when it feels so good!”

“...”

Kang-Woo put his hand on his forehead as if his head hurt and looked down at Seol-Ah’s foot that she stretched out in front of him. Her pale feet had no blemishes whatsoever. They were so beautiful that Kang-Woo couldn’t help but gulp. He slowly massaged them with both hands.

*‘Come on, licking feet is a bit much. It’s not even about my pride.’*

Kang-Woo cleared his throat and focused back on massaging Seol-Ah’s foot. Seol-Ah was slightly disappointed at first, but she was showing excessively good reactions once the massage began.

“Right, that’s enough,” Kang-Woo said as he took his hands off Seol-Ah’s foot.

“A-already...?” Seol-Ah asked hesitantly in disappointment. Her gaze almost broke Kang-Woo, but he forcibly turned away. “No fair, Kang-Woo. You said that you would do anything...”

Seol-Ah narrowed her eyes and poked Kang-Woo.

“Uhhh, mmm. Well...”

“Hoho. I’m joking.” She smiled and hugged Kang-Woo. She buried her face into his chest and took a deep breath in. “Fuuu, haaa.”

Seol-Ah smiled after relishing in Kang-Woo’s scent and remarked, “I’m glad.”

“About what?”

“Back then... I mean, after you met that demon called Bael, you’ve been acting a little weird, but I think you’re back to normal now.”

“...”

His darling seemed to have noticed it as well. Kang-Woo smiled bitterly.

“Oh right, Kang-Woo.”

“Hm? What?”

“Umm... Iris has decided to come to Earth from Aernor as part of a delegation. She’s planning on participating in the Guardians general assembly as well.”

“Iris?”

Kang-Woo expressed confusion.

*‘A delegation from Aernor, huh?’*

It was not impossible since a Gate had formed where people could freely go back and forth between Earth and Aernor. Even so, Iris herself would not have been able to decide to bring a delegation to Earth.

“Who pushed for it?” Kang-Woo asked.

He doubted that Iris would have proposed it first.

“Layla asked me to do it,” Seol-Ah answered.

“You, darling?”

“Yes. She said that having me tell her about it would be far more effective...”

“...”

Kang-Woo remained silent. As Layla had said, Seol-Ah would be more effective in convincing Iris considering what happened between them.

*‘But Layla shouldn’t know what happened between Darling and Iris.’*

Kang-Woo had not told any of his party members about the war of nerves that had taken place between Iris and Seol-Ah— no, he couldn’t.

*‘Because Darling almost fell from grace.’*

Seol-Ah would have been completely taken over by her angelic instincts if Kang-Woo had not made it in time.

“Did she mention why?” Kang-Woo asked.

“Layla said that it’s because she noticed how cautious Iris is when interacting with me.”

“Mm.”

From what Layla said, it seemed like she did not know what happened between Iris and Seol-Ah.

*‘It sounds like she asked Seol-Ah for a favor on a hunch.’*

It made sense since Kang-Woo personally considered Layla to be second only to Lilith in terms of capability.

“It would’ve been much better if you or Si-Hun had been the ones to do it, but... You two were both so busy that I contacted Iris myself,” Seol-Ah remarked.

“Good job. When is Iris coming?”

“In three days. She was saying how much she wanted to see you,” Seol-Ah said as she pouted, finding it unpleasant.

Kang-Woo smirked. If Layla had been the one to push for this, he more or less had an idea of why.

“Then it must have been announced to the public already, right? That people from another world will be visiting.”

“Oh? Have you watched the news too?” Seol-Ah asked.

“No,” Kang-Woo replied as he shook his head.

It was an obvious result.

*‘Layla must be trying to have the two worlds cooperate.’*

This was the most likely reason why Layla had invited a delegation from Aernor to Earth by going as far as to ask Seol-Ah to plan it.

*‘That must be the reason for sure considering what will happen in the future.’*

Earth was currently in a crisis. They had managed to prevent the gods of Earth from running amok somehow, but that would not stop the otherworldly invasions. It was a wise choice to gain as many allies as possible to prepare for the coming future.

*‘Though it’s easier said than done.’*

Different nations on Earth were at conflict with one another all the time; the conflict would only be amplified if they were different worlds entirely.

*‘But at least the leaders of both worlds aren’t ones to incite discord.’*

Layla was practically the leader of Earth and it was Iris for Aernor. Kang-Woo was at least sure that there would not be conflict between them.

*‘It’s worth a try.’*

The fact that the leaders of the two worlds had every intention to cooperate was a huge plus since those who were under leadership usually tended to follow leadership.

“Things should go smoothly as long as they make a good first impression,” Kang-Woo stated.

“Yes. Iris said not to worry as well.”

It would be Earth’s first time interacting with those of another world. Language barriers could be resolved with magic, but there was nothing that could be done about cultural differences. In such times, first impressions were everything.

*'Likes and dislikes are mostly decided by first impressions, after all.'*

People dressed as neatly as possible on a blind date for a reason. There was nothing more important than a first impression when one was trying to impress someone that they had never met before. As long as Aernor left a good first impression on Earth, their chance of cooperation would dramatically increase.

"Mm... wait." Kang-Woo grabbed his chin and fell into thought.

*'This is a crucial matter for Earth as well.'*

Kang-Woo had initially thought that the cooperation between Earth and Aernor was for preparations against otherworldly invasions, but after thinking more deeply about it, it was not that simple.

*'We don't know which worlds will be linked to Earth from now on.'*

They couldn't just pick fights with every single world that ended up getting connected to Earth. If the beings of the other world possessed enough intelligence for cooperation, it was the right choice to. Meaning, that the delegation from Aernor would be the very first otherworldly beings that Earth would make contact with and would also form a fundamental bias among those of Earth toward every otherworldly beings that they came across. To make a quick comparison, it was like an isolated nation accepting foreign civilizations for the very first time.

*'First impressions are imperative for things like that.'*

If a nation went out of its way to open its borders to establish diplomatic relations only for the foreign nations to mess up everything, the nation's hostile views on foreign nations would naturally grow beyond control.

*'Layla thought this through more than I had expected.'*

It was great that the first foreign entity that Earth would interact with was a delegation from Aernor since there was no risk of them coming and making a giant mess of things.

*'Was that also within her calculations?'*

Kang-Woo smiled, impressed by Layla's judgment. He could be at ease leaving things to her.

*'Unlike a certain goddess.'*

Kang-Woo frowned. His head hurt just thinking about Gaia.

*'I mean, I was partially at fault for going out of control.'*

But it was also partially Gaia's fault for being so incompetent. He was especially frustrated out of his mind when he was settling things with Gaia after Ragnarok.

*'How are you not even a quarter as capable as your incarnation?'*

Kang-Woo shook his head as if not wanting to think any more about Gaia.

"Anyway, thanks, Darling."

“Not at all.” Seol-Ah smiled gently. She then clapped her hands together as if she had thought of something. “Oh right, Kang-Woo.”

“Yeah?”

Kang-Woo tilted his head in confusion and looked at Seol-Ah, wondering what it was about now. Seol-Ah took something out of her pants pocket.

*‘A piece of paper?’*

“What’s that?” he asked.

“Lilith handed me this a while ago. Just a second.”

“Lilith?”

An uneasy feeling ran down his back.

“Title, Weight of the King.”

“Title?”

“The weight of life crushes my shoulders. How long will I be able to last?”

“...”

“Pain and despair are weighing down on me. The sky filled with sorrow is as hazy as always.”

“W-wai—”

“I cry in her arms.”

“Wait, Darling. What the hell is that?”

*‘What the fuck? What the actual fuck?’*

“And so... I shed tears once in a while...”

“Kurgh! Urgh!”

Kang-Woo clenched his chest as his entire body trembled. His face paled as he had trouble breathing.

“Lilith said that you love this poem, so I tried reading it,” Seol-Ah said as she smiled. She then looked down at the piece of paper and tilted her head in wonder. “That aside, I wonder what this poem is about. I can at least tell that the person in the poem is having... an extremely hard time.”

“A-aaaahh.”

“What did you like about this poem, Kang-Woo?”

“S-stop...”

*'Stop, please. Any more and my life will...'*

"Oh, if... perhaps... you're having as hard of a time as the person in this poem," Seol-Ah said as she smiled. "Then I'll lend you my arms."

"..."

"Hoho. I'm joking. There's no way you'd be like that."

"D-Darling..."

"But..." Seol-Ah swept up Kang-Woo's hair and kissed his forehead. She continued, "When you are having a hard time... make sure to rely on me, okay?"

Kang-Woo remained silent. "Urgh, urrrrrrrrrrrhhhhhhh."

Between his lips seeped out a horrifying groan that could only exist in Hell. He clenched his hair as the memories came back to him.

*"It's... so heavy."*

"N-no... N-no more..."

Stay...

*"I feel like I'm..."*

"Stop, s-stop...!"

Stay...

*"Getting crushed to death."*

"Stoooooooooooooooooop!!" Kang-Woo shouted in despair at his past self within his memories.

"K-Kang-Woo?!" Seol-Ah looked at Kang-Woo in surprise.

Kang-Woo lowered his head as he clenched his hair.

"Ahhh..."

*'I'll just die. I'll just fucking die.'*

"Hurgh, *sniff*, fuck my life..."

Chapter 452 - Aernor Delegation (2)

"Kang-Woo! I brought the clothes you'll be wearing today!" Echidna shouted from outside Oh Kang-Wo's room.

"Okay," Kang-Woo answered shortly.

The door swung open and entered a neatly dressed Echidna. It was rare to see her in such clothes, but her appearance made the clothes look more like a school uniform than formal attire.

“Who gave you those clothes?” Kang-Woo asked.

“Lilith did! She got you this too!” Echidna said as she handed Kang-Woo a clean set of formal attire.

Kang-Woo accepted the clothes. They looked extremely luxurious from just a glance.

*‘It’s been a while since I’ve worn a suit.’*

He did not like wearing uncomfortable clothes to move around in, but he had no choice today.

*‘Since today’s the day that Aernor’s delegation arrives.’*

Dressing neatly for the occasion to welcome them was a formality. Kang-Woo slightly lifted his t-shirt to change.

“Hm! Hm!”

“...”

“Hm! Hmmmm!”

“Umm... Could you give me some privacy?”

“It’s my duty to watch over your growth, Kang-Woo!”

“Oh, I see.”

“Kang-Woo! What color are your panties today?!”

“Slushy.”

Kang-Woo raised his right hand without answering Echidna.

“Grrk!”

Slushy bounced out from the Key of the Demonic Sea and stuck to Echidna’s face.

“Kyah!”

Echidna struggled to get Slushy off of her face. Meanwhile, Kang-Woo changed into the suit that Echidna got for him and stood in front of the mirror.

*‘Mm. Not bad.’*

Kang-Woo smiled as he stared at himself in the mirror. People tended to see their reflection in the mirror as more handsome than they actually were.

“Puhah!”

“Grrk!”

Echidna managed to get Slushy off of her face and threw it aside, Slushy rolling across the ground. Kang-Woo smiled and walked toward Echidna.

He asked as he fixed his clothes, “How do I look?”





Just like what had happened with his status window back then, the letters were completely illegible. Kang-Woo's anger only grew as he stared at the letters. *'I have no clues to go off of, so I have no choice but to randomly test shit out.'*

It was certainly something related to the Doors, but just like the first effect, he couldn't afford to open the Doors only to find out what the second effect did.

"Ngh. I guess there's nothing I can test out at the moment," Kang-Woo muttered as he groaned.

He was at least relieved that the Trait would be of great help to him when he had no choice but to open the Doors.

"Kang-Woo! I'm all done!" Echidna shouted.

Kang-Woo nodded and stood up to look at himself in the mirror.

"Not bad." The hairstyle suited him considerably well. "Right then, let's go."

It was almost time for the delegation to arrive.

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"This is Reporter Kim Seon-Kyung of SKM News! I am in front of the Gate where we will meet the people from Aernor for the very first time! The place is filled with the executive members of Guardians, national representatives, and countless people to witness this historic moment with their own eyes!"

The boisterous sound of helicopter blades turning rang but the mumblings of countless people were enough to drown it out. Layla, Grace McCubbin, Kim Si-Hun, and Kang-Woo were standing in front of the Gate in formal attire to greet the delegation from Aernor.

*'There are so many goddamn people.'*

Kang-Woo looked around in annoyance. The area was filled with politicians from every country, reporters, and regular citizens. It was only to this extent thanks to the Guardians Players regulating them; it would have been complete chaos if they were all left to be.

*'The internet is on fire too.'*

Kang-Woo turned on a stream on his smartphone.

[Live stream of the first encounter with Aernor's delegation: 382,190 watching]

JerryM: Sheesh, are these numbers for real??

Butterfly Valley: ban the spammers plz

Wooden Spoon: Sheeeeeeeesh! People from another world! I can't believe I'm living to see the day!!

Ro Yu-Jin: It has to be a cute girl, right? With big tits, right? They have to be big! That's the rule!

Woojin: Elf! They have to be an elf if they're from another world!

Sosori: I just imagined myself going to another world.

Tresha: Guys stfu. The stream is lagging cuz of the chat.

Sosori: Wow u left me hanging

The chat was so fast that Kang-Woo could barely read any of them. Over 380 thousand people were watching the livestream, and that was the Koreans alone.

*'If we take the entire world into account...'*

There would likely be an immense number of people watching the scene right now.

*'I mean, it's only natural.'*

It was Earth's first encounter with another world of all things; there was no way that people wouldn't be interested.

*'It looks like the reactions are... mostly positive.'*

It was more apt to say that they were curious. One would only be able to tell whether their curiosity would turn to amity or hostility after the meeting took place.

*'You're my only hope, Iris!'*

Kang-Woo put his smartphone back into his pocket as his eyes shone. It was no exaggeration to say that whether this first meeting would be successful or not was entirely up to Iris. He was honestly not that worried.

*'The first impression would most definitely be amicable considering her good looks.'*

One's looks were the most important in first impressions; there was nothing more simple than that to leave an impactful first impression. Considering that, Iris's elven beauty would no doubt leave a wonderful impression on the people of Earth as well as fulfill their fantasies of another world.

*'Not just that, her ears got longer after becoming Elune's incarnation.'*

Her physical form had become closer to that of an elf than a human. People thought of elves when they thought about another world, which could be seen from the comments.

*'This is gonna work.'*

The plan was already half-complete with just Iris's looks. The rest would be resolved as long as Lilith manipulated public opinion.

Whoooooom!

A wave formed on the giant Gate that was several kilometers tall. The voices of news reporters filled the scene.

"Everyone! A historical moment is about to take place! The delegation from Aernor is about to arrive on Earth! Countless Gates have formed since the Day of Calamity, but this is the first time that we will be interacting with other humans with as much intelligence as us!"

“What will the people from the other world look like? Will we be able to form an amicable relationship with them?”

“According to the First Lady Grace McCubbin, Guardians have already formed a bond of trust with...”

Voices sounded out from all over as the entire world focused on the Gate.

Whoooooom!

The wave on the Gate grew stronger.

*‘Right, then.’*

Kang-Woo stared at the Gate in anticipation.

Step, step.

Clear sounds of footsteps echoed from the Gate. They sounded like the marching of trained soldiers.

*‘Did she bring the imperial army as the delegation?’*

Kang-Woo couldn’t help but think so. He stared at the Gate with a slight frown.

*‘An army isn’t good.’*

Seeing armed soldiers would only raise the people of Earth’s wariness of those from Aernor.

*‘But asking them not to be armed is a bit much too.’*

No matter how much Iris trusted Kang-Woo, coming to another world without having any means to protect oneself was asking for too much.

*‘This is more than within my limits of approval.’* Kang-Woo nodded. *‘Now, it’ll all go smoothly once the first impression is good.’*

An alliance between Earth and Aernor was about to be formed.

“Everyone! The delegation of Aernor is coming out of...” a news reporter slurred their words after seeing the delegation.

“The hell?” Kang-Woo was left with his mouth agape after seeing the delegation walking out of the Gate.

The delegation of Aernor consisted of thousands of people and were all wearing white clerical robes covering their entire bodies with a beautiful golden emblem on them. Kang-Woo was familiar with the emblem.

“Wha— Why is...”

*‘Why is the Church of Splendor here?’*

[Greetings, people of Earth,] said a blonde woman standing at the front. Her words translated by magic filled the surroundings via a voice amplification device. [My name is Iris von Arnan, the princess of the Arnan Empire.]

Iris took off her white hood, revealing her beautiful face with her golden hair fluttering in the wind.

[I have come to Earth to deliver the words of light to you all.]

“... Hey.”

[Everyone, do you believe in the light?]

“Wait a second.”

[Are you aware of the God of Splendor?]

“What are you doing?”

Kang-Woo’s mouth was left agape.

*‘In the place where Earth would meet the people of Aernor for the very first time... where their first impression would decide everything...’*

“What the fuck do you think you’re d—”

Before Kang-Woo had a chance to finish his sentence, Iris shouted, [People of Earth! Let us all put our faith in the God of Splendor! We must all believe in the God of Splendor! We must all follow his words!]

“No.”

[Let us all praise him!]

“Stop.”

[Ohmen! Ohmen! Ohmen!!! O light!!][2]

“Please fucking stop.”

{Ohmeeeeeeeeeen!!}

Kang-Woo looked around in silence.

Everyone’s mouths were left agape in shock due to the appearance of a group of cultists. Kang-Woo lowered his head with his hair clenched.

“Motherfucker.”

*‘Why does this shit always happen to me?’*

Chapter 453 - Aernor Delegation (4)

“Uhh, mm...” The reporter who had been commentating passionately slurred with a dumbfounded expression.

It was not just the reporter; everyone looking at Aernor’s delegation was lost for words. The same went for the people in the live chat.

[Live stream of the first encounter with Aernor’s delegation: 403,271 watching]

JerryM: ???

BestTaeSoo: Whut?

Lemme out of bronze: The hell? Is this a cult?

Tresha: Holy shit LMFAO

Ro Yu-Mi: It's for sure a cult

Ro Yu-Jin: Holy mother of God. It's a blonde elf!! A real blonde elf!!

Wooden Spoon: LET'S GOOOOOOOOOO!!!

Ro Yu-Mi: That's all you can think about in this situation?

Fuck Rogues: Guys, this isn't the issue! I hit it big! I found a dungeon hidden within a Gate!

Butterfly Valley: plz ban spammers

*'What a fucking mess.'*

However optimistically one looked, Aernor's delegation looked like nothing but a fanatical cult. Negative opinions of the delegation accumulated to the point that Iris's looks were not enough to cover for them.

*'This isn't good.'*

It was the worst possible first impression. Oh Kang-Woo was sure that the people of Earth would consider the people of Aernor, whom they needed to cooperate with to prepare for future dangers, as a world of cultists.

*'I need to demonstrate somehow that they're not cultists.'*

It was far too late to stop the delegation's actions since the entire world had already seen them preaching *Ohmen* as they prayed to the God of Splendor. It was impossible even for Kang-Woo to erase the memories of every single person who saw it.

*'Now that it has come to this...'*

Kang-Woo had no other choice. He needed to make them devotees who had received the blessing of the God of Splendor instead of a group of fanatical cultists.

*'At least they didn't reveal my name.'*

The situation would have been irreparable if the delegation had mentioned Kang-Woo by name.

"Fuuu," Kang-Woo sighed deeply and snapped his finger.

Whoooooom!!

[Whoooooaaaa!]

[O light of splendor!]

[Ohmen! Ohmen! Ohmen!]

Golden light poured out from the bodies of the delegates praising the light. The entire delegation glowed gold.

‘Now.’

Kang-Woo turned to look at the blonde woman standing at the forefront of the delegation. She was the only one who could resolve this chaos.

- Iris.

- Ah, yes! Sir Kang-Woo!

Iris smiled brightly after finding Kang-Woo, giving him a proud expression as if she wanted to be praised. Kang-Woo’s head hurt.

- Stop this goddamn bullshit.

- B-bull... shit?

- Yeah. Tell them all to shut the fuck up.

- B-but...

Iris flinched as she heard Kang-Woo’s furious voice. It seemed she was sure that Kang-Woo would like it.

- Do exactly as I say from now on.

- I understand.

Iris nodded in dejection. Kang-Woo felt bad after seeing her face but now was not the time. He relayed his plan that would resolve the situation as best as possible.

“Th-this is...”

[Fufu. You all seem to be surprised.]

Iris smiled softly and raised her hand. Fortunately, the delegation was made up of people within her full control; the delegates screaming *Ohmen* quieted down immediately once they saw Iris’s hand.

[I apologize for the discourtesy. I was just so excited to relay the blessing of light to the people of Earth with whom we will be maintaining an amicable alliance from now on.]

Iris bowed politely by slightly raising the hem of her clerical robe. She was treated like an incompetent princess before Kang-Woo arrived on Aernor, but the education that she received due to being born into royalty did not disappear. The confused people around the Gate slightly lowered their guard as they witnessed Iris’s elegance.

“Umm... may I ask what the blessing of light is?” asked one of the reporters through an interpretation magic tool.

[I am referring to the blessing of the God of Splendor who takes care of the people of Aernor. Mm... Just a second, please.]

Iris slowly raised her right hand.

Whooooom!

Blinding golden light surged from her hand; a pillar of light shot up several dozens of kilometers and spread like a tent. Light particles akin to raindrops fell from the sky.

*'Authority of Enhancement.'*

Kang-Woo activated an Authority at the same time; it filled one with energy and improved one's condition to be ideal for combat. Kang-Woo did not need such an Authority since his body was in its best condition at all times, but it was a different story for the regular people and Players here.

"Wow."

"Why am I surging with power all of a sudden?"

"I-it's up! After twenty long flaccid years!!"

The people who received the blessing of splendor touched themselves in shock. Their fatigue and irritation had vanished as if they had never existed. The people who had gathered to watch the historic moment of Earth and Aernor's first interaction were naturally in terrible condition since they had been stuck among the massive crowd for an entire day. The crowd of people worked in Kang-Woo's favor.

[This is the God of Splendor's blessing. Of course, this is only a fragment of his power,] Iris answered the reporter with an elegant smile.

"Ah..."

The reporter also looked down at himself in disbelief and shock. He could feel himself brimming with vitality despite having spent several all-nighters preparing to report on the delegation from Aernor.

The people began to look at Iris and the delegation differently; they were not fanatical cultists but those who could invoke the blessing and miracle of a real god.

"Umm... Are there Players among you?" the reporter asked.

Some Players of Earth could perform miracles like this as well with their abilities, but even fewer were able to cast such a wide-area buff to thousands of people at once.

[Players? What are those?]

"I mean, people who have been given benefits from the System to level up and awaken Traits—"

[Hoho. No, nothing of the sort.] Iris giggled and shook her head. [All you need is faith toward the light. The God of Splendor grants us such blessings just from believing in him.]

"Pardon?"

The reporter's eyes were filled with doubt again. It did not make sense that someone could perform such acts just by believing despite a very few number of Players being able to.

[Do you believe it is absurd?]

"Ah, I-I wouldn't say that, but..."

[Hoho. There is no need to be so confused. It is only natural for you to think that way since you have not received the blessing of Splendor.] Iris smiled gently and held the reporter's hands. [Now, why don't you try reciting *Ohmen*

? It usually takes time for one to receive a blessing, but... I will try to pray to the God of Splendor for an exception.]

"Mm... *O-Ohmen?*" the reporters stuttered. Just then...

Whoooooom!

"*Gasp!*"

Golden light shot down from the sky and flowed into the reporter. The reporter took a few steps back in terror but then stared at the golden light enveloping him.

"This is..."

Kim Seon-Kyung, the reporter interviewing Iris, was brimming with power. She was a Player who had achieved her Third Awakening. She had turned to the path of reporting after being unable to enter high-ranking Gates due to her low Trait rank, but she was most definitely stronger than a regular person, which was why she was able to figure it out much more quickly.

Riiing.

[You have received the 'Blessing of Splendor(???)'.]

[You have become a devotee of the 'God of Splendor(???)'.]

[Dramatically raising all stats!]

[Raising the rank of 'Deceptive Footwork (Rank: E)' to D!]

"This is..." the reporter mumbled as she read through the message window.

"Wh-what the hell?"

"Can we really gain power just from believing?"

The people looked back and forth between Iris and the reporter in disbelief. Their mumbles grew louder. Iris looked back at them and spread her arms wide.

[The blessing of splendor does not discriminate between race, sex, age... or even what world you're from.]

Only Iris's voice echoed clearly in the deathly silence.

[If the people of Earth trust the blessing of light as we do...] Iris stared at the camera that the reporter was holding and continued, [It will become proof that although our worlds are different, we are one.]

"Yeaaaaaaaahhh!"

Cheers sounded out from all over. The people who had been staring at the Aernor delegation like a bunch of crazy fanatics were now staring passionately at the light flowing out of the delegates.



*'Fuck yeah.'* Kang-Woo clenched his fists as he looked at the surrounding reactions. *'This is it! It worked!'*

He had successfully managed to steer a bus on the brink of cracking.

*'I ended up with an apostle I don't even want.'*

Kang-Woo smiled bitterly as he stared at Seon-Kyung, the reporter interviewing Iris.

*'Thank God I learned how to make apostles back in the divine realm.'*

Those with Deific Essence were able to create incarnations and apostles. As for creating an incarnation, the god needed to take the risk of sharing the damage that their incarnation suffered. Of course, like how Layla had been stuck in a wheelchair, any damages that Gaia suffered would go back to Layla. It was impossible to give apostles Deific Essence, but blessing them through a small portion of Divinity would permanently raise their power. Kang-Woo had also become Gaia's apostle through her blessing.

*'My Divinity went down a little, but whatever. At least he came up with something interesting.'*

There was nothing more important than the fact that he had managed to turn this crisis around. Kang-Woo sighed in relief. Just then...

"... Ohmen."

"Ohmen, ohmen, ohmen."

"Ohmeeeeeeeeeeen!!"

*'The hell is this now?'*

Kang-Woo looked around dumbfoundedly. The people who witnessed what had happened between Iris and the reporter quickly began to chant *Ohmen*.

Riiing.

[The Church of Splendor's Korean branch has been formed.]

[You can collect Divinity based on their faith.]

The Church of Splendor, which had practically taken over Aernor, had made its way to Earth.

Chapter 454 - Who?

A boy with blank eyes was sitting on top of a giant hill made of dry red sand as darkness akin to the abyss was squirming around him. He was focusing on something with his eyes closed.

Tap, tap, tap.

The sound of a staff hitting the ground echoed. A hunchback demon covered in bandages everywhere except his eyes walked toward the boy.

"Lord Bael, how is the digestion of the Demon God's heart faring?"

The boy known as Bael slowly opened his eyes. He pouted in displeasure and said, "It's not as easy as I'd thought it would be. I think I'll need a little more time."

"Kekeke. There is no need to rush. You have already claimed victory from the moment that you acquired the Demon God's heart."

"Hihihi, right? But even so, I wanna digest it as quickly as possible." Bael laughed as he pounded his chest, his laughter echoing. "That aside, what brings you here? Are you having a hard time rallying the demons of the Nine Hells?"

"No. There certainly are those who resist, but... things are going without a hitch."

"Then what?" Bael asked as he stared at Amon with his head tilted.

Amon's red eyes narrowed. He said with a voice as unpleasant as nails on a chalkboard, "It seems... a Titan has intervened."

Bael remained silent. He smirked and continued, "Heh, what got those geezers off of their asses?"

"Most likely due to the Law of Titans."

"Hihihi! I guess there can be no other reason." Bael cackled as he nodded. He narrowed his eyes fiercely and asked, "So, in what way have they intervened? No, before that... which one of those fatasses was it?"

"Nostrian, the Titan of Time."

"Hmm."

Bael's eyes shone, never having heard of the name.

"However, it was not a direct intervention," Amon mentioned.

"Really?" Bael clicked his tongue in disappointment.

"He has handed a portion of his power to a human through a Gate."

"Hihihi. Is he aiming to keep an eye on me or something?"

"I am not yet sure of his exact intentions." Amon shook his head and continued, "But considering the situation, it seems correct to assume that it is related to the time of prophecy."

"Hehe. True."

Bael nodded. Most of the Titans likely couldn't care less about what happened to the Triad, but it was a different story for a Titan who knew about the prophecy.

The corners of Bael's mouth split, reaching his earlobes. "Because he knows that once I devour the Triad... they're next."

He licked the saliva around his lips. Madness filled his narrowed eyes. Seeing that, Amon cackled.

“What will you do?” Amon asked.

“About what?”

“About Nostrian’s intervention.”

“Mm.” Bael laid down on top of the hill of red sand and answered, “Leave it be.”

“Pardon?”

“Just forget about it.”

Amon blinked repeatedly, not having expected this response. “Leaving the other Titans aside, leaving Nostrian to his own devices is—”

“It doesn’t matter.”

“He might—”

“I said, it doesn’t matter.”

Bael spread his arms out and stared up at the red sky apathetically as he yawned.

“Titans, huh?” Bael snickered; he recalled someone as his eyes filled with the madness of hunger. It was the face of a human with sharp eyes. “Doesn’t it sound fun?”

His voice echoed throughout the hill of red sand.

\*\*\*

A month had passed since the delegation from Aernor first arrived on Earth. Since then, Oh Kang-Woo had been busy every single moment of his day. He was forced to travel all over the world to introduce Iris to every world leader and was even made to schedule times for her to build amicable relations with Guardians members whom she had not yet met.

He had also eliminated a terrorist organization that opposed cooperation with the people of another world and spread as many extremely positive articles about Aernor as he could.

However, that did not mean he could only focus on the alliance between Aernor and Earth. He spent time with Han Seol-Ah before she exploded, helped Kim Si-Hun and Balrog train, killed monsters that came out of Gates with Cha Yeon-Joo, and many others. His free time was nonexistent during the past month, and public interest in the delegation of Aernor began to die down.

“A meeting?” Kang-Woo asked, tilting his head in confusion as he stared at Lilith.

“Yes. Layla has asked you to participate in the emergency meeting to be held this afternoon.”

“Why? We just had the general assembly a few days ago.”

They had only just had the Guardians general assembly with Iris and the world leaders three days ago. As a result, troops would be dispatched from Aernor to Earth and would be provided a space

for them to live near Seoul, just like how Korea provided the US Armed Forces accommodations during the Day of Calamity.

There was much opposition from the other countries regarding Aernor's troops only being dispatched to Seoul but it was resolved without much issue because the giant Gate that led to Aernor was close to Seoul and the troops could travel to other countries swiftly using the Gates of the Hall of Protection. Kang-Woo couldn't believe that they were having another meeting after thinking that things would die down from now on.

"It's apparently about something else," Lilith mentioned.

"Mm... What is it about, then?"

"She said that there is a Player whom she wants to introduce to you."

"A Player?"

Kang-Woo stared at Lilith in confusion. Lilith only shrugged, not having any of the details either.

"Hmm." Kang-Woo narrowed his eyes.

*'An emergency meeting just to introduce a Player?'*

If such a big deal was being made out of something that could be relayed over a message or a call, it was surely not about some ordinary Player.

*'I should go check it out.'*

Layla was not one to make a huge deal about such things for no reason. Kang-Woo headed to the Hall of Protection immediately. Tian Wuchen, Si-Hun, and Cha Yeon-Joo were already there after hearing the news.

"Oh, hyung-nim!" Si-Hun approached Kang-Woo with a smile.

*'Son of a bitch gets more handsome with each day.'*

Kang-Woo greeted Si-Hun back with a wave. Seeing that, Yeon-Joo pouted.

"Hmph, what are you, his dog?"

Si-Hun looked exactly like a puppy running to Kang-Woo, his owner.

"What do you think you're saying to my Si-Hun?" Kang-Woo said.

"Oh? *Your* Si-Hun, you say?" Yeon-Joo chuckled. "That aside, have you heard anything about the Player?"

"Nope. How about you, Si-Hun, Have you heard anything from Layla?"

"No. I was so busy killing monsters lately that I barely had time to meet Layla."

"Really?"

Kang-Woo nodded slightly and headed deeper into the Hall of Protection. Layla was sitting in the meeting room.

“Oh, thank you for coming, everyone.” She smiled as she looked at the Guardians members entering the meeting room. She stood up and bowed politely. “Thank you all for giving me a moment of your precious time.”

“I was told that you have a Player you’d like to introduce to us... Who is it?”

“Hoho. Just a moment, please.” Layla looked up and scanned the people in the meeting room. She then continued, “Before I introduce him...I’m sure you all know that there has been a massive influx of abnormal phenomena in the Gates, right?”

Kang-Woo nodded. He had been hearing of it since coming back from the divine realm.

“Mm... There is a Player who has been eliminating monsters pouring out of those Gates since a month ago.”

“Hm? Isn’t it obvious that a Player would be killing monsters?” Yeon-Joo asked with her head tilted in confusion.

Kang-Woo clicked his tongue. “There’s no way Layla would gather us just because of that.”

The fact that Layla opened an emergency meeting meant that this Player had done far more than simply killing monsters.

“Yes, you’re right, Kang-Woo. This Player... has killed an enormous number of monsters rapidly growing in number lately,” Layla stated.

“How much is enormous? How many monsters have this Player killed compared to the average Player...?”

“He has probably killed more monsters than Si-Hun.”

“Pardon?”

Kang-Woo stared at Layla dumbfoundedly. Si-Hun had been entirely focused on killing the rapidly growing number of monsters while Kang-Woo had been away in the divine realm.

*‘More than Si-Hun?’*

It was hard to believe. Si-Hun was the strongest human that Kang-Woo knew. If Divinity was taken out of the equation, Zeus, Thor, and even Odin would be no match for Si-Hun. Only Tai Wuji was on a level that surpassed Si-Hun.

“More than me?” Si-Hun asked as well, just as shocked as Kang-Woo.

Layla nodded softly. “You two might be similar in terms of exact number, but...” She turned to Kang-Woo and continued, “In just one month, this Player has killed enough monsters to be on par with the total number that Si-Hun has killed. All in Gates that S-rank monsters appear in, no less.”

Kang-Woo remained silent. A human had killed enough monsters to be on par with Si-Hun, and they had done it all in Gates where S-rank monsters appeared in.

*‘It’s impossible unless they possess Deific Essence.’*

No, not even Deific Essence would be able to make it easy since Deific Essence was more specialized toward defense than offense.

Kang-Woo had just one question that he was most curious about.

“How has a Player like that... not been known thus far?”

It did not make sense for a Player who could do such things to not have been under the radar.

*‘It’s as if... they fell out of the sky.’*

Kang-Woo stared at Layla, completely unable to understand.

Having expected the question, Layla smiled bitterly and responded, “According to him, he came across a strange fate in a dungeon that he found within a Gate one month ago.”

“A strange fate?”

“Yes. He was allegedly an ordinary Player before then.”

Kang-Woo narrowed his eyes. It sounded far too made-up.

*‘Did they become an incarnation or something?’*

That was the only possibility he could come up with.

*‘But the gods of Earth’s divine realm are being kept in check by Gaia.’*

If that was the case, an outer god might have approached the Player instead.

*‘I’ll have to see him for myself.’*

It was difficult to come to a conclusion when they had not even seen him yet. After waiting in the meeting room for a little, a young man opened the door and entered. He had light brown hair and looked fairly affable.

*‘A new face.’*

Kang-Woo scanned the young man with deeply sunken eyes. Just then, the young man smiled brightly as soon as he saw Kang-Woo.

“K-Kang-Woo? Is that you, Kang-Woo?!”

The young man walked up to Kang-Woo excitedly. “I-I can’t believe I got to meet you again... It is truly an honor!”

“Uhh, mm.”

*‘The hell?’*

“It’s me! Kim Tae-Hyun!”[1]

*‘Who?’*

“You saved my life a long time ago! I still haven’t forgotten the help you gave me back then. I’m always thankful to you!”

“Of course, I remember you, Tae-Hyun. It’s nice to see you again.”

“K-Kang-Woo... I-I knew you’d remember me!! I knew you’d still remember the promise we made!”[2]

*‘Seriously, who the fuck is this guy?’*

“How could I forget? There’s... no way I would forget about you, Tae-Hyun.”

*‘I can’t remember, no matter how hard I think.’*

Chapter 455 - Another Protagonist

“I’ve come to fulfill the promise that I made to you... and to repay the favor.”

The young man who introduced himself as Kim Tae-Hyun reached out his hand with a bright smile. Oh Kang-Woo also smiled and grabbed Tae-Hyun’s hand.

*‘Seriously, who the hell is this guy?’*

Kang-Woo couldn’t recall the young man no matter how thoroughly he flipped through his memories.

*‘He doesn’t seem to be lying.’*

Tae-Hyun did not seem to be fabricating a story to take advantage of Kang-Woo’s fame. In the first place, if he wanted to become famous, he would be aiming for Kim Si-Hun instead since Si-Hun was far more famous than Kang-Woo at least on Earth.

*‘Then that means he has actually met me in the past.’*

Kang-Woo went through his memories again slowly as he stared at Tae-Hyun’s face. His affable expression was common in Japanese fantasy anime; he was average, neither handsome nor ugly.

*‘Where have I seen him before?’*

He felt like he would remember with just a little reminder. He traversed through a forest of memories covered in thick fog. Just then, he recalled someone’s desperate screams from the depths of his memory.

*“I’m a rogue! Someone, anyone, please let me join your party! I’ll provide first aid if nothing else!!”[1]*

*‘Oh.’* Kang-Woo’s eyes widened. *‘Fucking hell. No wonder I didn’t recall him right away.’*

It was such a long time ago. No, that was not the only issue since Kang-Woo would have remembered it if the event had been important. The main reason that Kang-Woo was unable to recall Kim Tae-Hyun immediately was not because it had been so long but because his importance had been so insignificant.

*‘Yeah... I once saved him from the Andras Guild.’*

Several more memories popped up in Kang-Woo’s head once he remembered the event.

*“I’ll definitely grow out of being a first-aid administrator and repay you for today’s favor!”[2]*

Kang-Woo recalled Tae-Hyun saying those words before leaving.

*'Dayum. What a long-ass foreshadowing.'*

Kang-Woo stared at Tae-Hyun dumbfoundedly. No matter how he thought about it, it felt more like something that the author made use of after completely forgetting about it than perfectly calling back a foreshadowing that had occurred over four hundred chapters ago.

"I'm no longer the weak first-aid administrator I used to be! I've grown to a point that I can be of help to you!" Tae-Hyun shouted brightly.

Kang-Woo narrowed his eyes for a moment. *'Grown, huh?'*

How could a rogue-class Player who was rejected by even low-level parties have grown faster than even Si-Hun?

*'It doesn't make any sense.'*

It was worse than a new character being introduced in a game that destroyed the balance completely. To make a comparison, it was like seeing a regular high schooler in your neighborhood who played basketball casually suddenly making his debut in the NBA and destroying Michael Jordan. Tae-Hyun's growth was unreal even if he had come across some sort of strange fate.

"Haha. I've never thought of you as weak even once, Tae-Hyun," Kang-Woo expressed.

"K-Kang-Woo..."

"But how were you able to grow this quickly?"

Kang-Woo scanned Tae-Hyun with narrow eyes, observing his eyes, voice, and every little movement that he made.

"Mm. Well..." Tae-Hyun scratched his head and continued, "I think it was about a month ago. It was when I was exploring a Gate by myself. It was a B-rank Gate in the Haeundae district of Busan."

B was not that high of a rank for a Gate.

"But an S-rank monster suddenly appeared in the Gate due to the abnormal phenomena occurring in Gates lately... I accidentally fell from a cliff as I was frantically running away."

"..."

"I closed my eyes, thinking I was going to die, but I luckily managed to survive thanks to being caught by tree roots that happened to have grown out of the cliff walls. And then—"

"And then you came across a strange fate, or something like that?"

"Ah! Th-that's right! To be more exact, I found a hidden dungeon!"



“...”

Kang-Woo put a hand over his forehead as if he was having a headache.

*‘What the fuck? Coming across a strange fate from falling down a cliff? Is this some martial arts story?’*

Kang-Woo couldn’t even laugh. He organized his thoughts and then asked, “... Could you give me more details about this hidden dungeon?”

“Mm. I’m not sure exactly what it was either. A message saying that I entered *Nostrian’s Will* appeared as soon as I entered the hidden dungeon, and then I immediately passed out.”

“...”

Kang-Woo had never heard of anyone named Nostrian.

*‘Are they an outer god?’*

He had nothing to go off of at the moment.

“I found this around my neck when I woke up,” Tae-Hyun said as he raised the necklace on his neck.

The ornament of the necklace was about half the size of a palm and had strange symbols on it. In the center of those symbols, an eye that gave off an unpleasant feeling was engraved.

*‘It looks like the Time Stone thingie.’*

Kang-Woo recalled seeing a necklace like that in a superhero film that he had once seen. Kang-Woo scanned the necklace on Tae-Hyun’s neck with the Authority of Insight.

Riiiiing.

[Player Oh Kang-Woo’s Deific Essence is too low in rank to check the information of the corresponding item.]

*‘... What?’*

Kang-Woo’s expression crumpled aggressively after seeing the message in front of him. His Deific Essence was Top-rank and on the verge of reaching Transcendent-rank, but it was too low.

*‘What the hell is happening?’*

His head was in jumbles.

“What about after that...?” Kang-Woo asked.

“Well, as you can see, I acquired immense power.”

Tae-Hyun slightly raised his hand. Translucent light particles gathered around his hand as if crystal fragments that had been scattered in midair were coming together.

Rumble—!

Colossal power shook the surroundings. Kang-Woo's eyes widened.

*'The hell?'*

He had never felt this sort of power before. He had seen demons, angels, and even gods, but this was the first time that a form of energy caused him to feel this way. Kang-Woo narrowed his eyes.

*'Deific Essence?'*

Kang-Woo shook his head. It was different from the power that regular Deific Essence gave off.

*'It's similar in terms of type.'*

Deific Essence was the closest to how the energy felt but it was different. To make a comparison, it was like the difference between a leopard and a tiger. They were both classified as the *Felidae* family but were different species.

*'But the problem is that energy would be the tiger instead of the leopard.'*

The amount of energy was not enormous in any way but it was stronger than Deific Essence in terms of quality.

*'It seems... I'll have to test it out.'*

"Mm..."

"Haha. I know it's a difficult story to take in," Tae-Hyun said as he scratched his head and smiled awkwardly. He then walked toward Kang-Woo with bright eyes. "But I didn't lie."

"Ah, yes. I didn't think you were, Tae-Hyun."

The fact that Tae-Hyun had killed an enormous number of monsters after acquiring that power was proof.

"Does that mean I can enter Guardians as well?" Tae-Hyun asked anxiously as he gulped.

It seemed like he had killed the rapidly growing number of monsters right after gaining power because he wanted to be a part of Guardians. Kang-Woo smiled at Tae-Hyun who was blazing with passion.

"Would you be able to take a simple recruitment test before that?" Kang-Woo asked.

"Ah, yes! Of course!"

Tae-Hyun nodded. Kang-Woo glanced at Si-Hun.

"Si-Hun."

"Yes, hyung-nim."

Si-Hun, who had been staring blankly at Tae-Hyun, turned to Kang-Woo.

"Could you test Tae-Hyun?"

“... Of course.” Si-Hun clenched his sword and slightly nodded.

It seemed like his competitive spirit was set ablaze after hearing that Tae-Hyun had killed more monsters than him. Si-Hun’s eyes staring at Tae-Hyun were blazing with passion. Kang-Woo tapped on the bridge of his nose as he looked back and forth at the two men.

*‘Now, then. Let’s see what this Nostrian’s Will is made of.’*

Clack.

They entered the training room in the Hall of Protection. It was durable enough to have handled the battle between Kang-Woo and Zeus. Si-Hun and Tae-Hyun stood across from each other in the white room.

Cha Yeon-Joo narrowed her eyes as she stared at them and asked, “Isn’t his story super suspicious? He just ended up coming across a strange fate after falling down a cliff?”

Kang-Woo answered, “I don’t think he’s lying. I’ve even met him before.”

“How did you get to know him?”

Kang-Woo explained to her what happened between him and Tae-Hyun in the past.

“Hah. What a fucking callback...” Yeon-Joo muttered.

“I’ll say.” Kang-Woo shrugged. He stared at Si-Hun, who was unsheathing his sword, and asked, “Who do you think will win?”

“Si-Hun, obviously,” replied Yeon-Joo as if she had no doubt.

Even if Tae-Hyun had acquired some unknown power, she would naturally think that Si-Hun would come out on top considering she had witnessed how powerful he was.

“... I guess so.”

Kang-Woo nodded and paid attention to the upcoming battle. The others thought so as well, mainly thinking about how long Tae-Hyun would be able to last against Si-Hun.

“Then, let us begin,” Si-Hun said.

Their duel finally began. Si-Hun stretched out his arm and created a formless sword. He gripped the sword and leaped forward, leaving afterimages along his path. Si-Hun lightly swung his sword at Tae-Hyun after arriving in front of him in an instant.

Clang—!

“Hup!”

Tae-Hyun took out a dagger from his waist and blocked Si-Hun’s attack. Si-Hun did not falter and spun to attack again.

*‘Heavenly Dragon Rampage.’*

He used a sword technique without hesitation to end the battle as quickly as possible. Hundreds of sword attacks aimed at Tae-Hyun, all real attacks made of formless swords.

Clang, clang, clang—!!

“...!”

Tae-Hyun parried every single attack aimed at him, leaving Si-Hun in shock.

“What the...”

Si-Hun did not stay shocked for long and went on the offensive again.

Clang! Clang! Claaang!

However, none of his attacks were able to even graze Tae-Hyun. Si-Hun added feints now and then but Tae-Hyun perfectly parried his attacks with just a dagger.

*‘What’s going on?’*

Si-Hun’s eyes were filled with shock. Tae-Hyun’s movements were not exceptional nor was he a better martial artist than Si-Hun. No, Tae-Hyun’s movements were just fast; they were poor in terms of quality.

*‘So how...’*

How was he able to deflect every single one of Si-Hun’s attacks?

*‘It’s as if... he knows the future.’*

“Haap!” Tae-Hyun shouted and charged at Si-Hun.

Translucent light particles that looked like scattered crystal fragments poured out of Tae-Hyun’s necklace. He held the dagger in a reverse grip and swung it down. Si-Hun calmly raised his sword to block the attack.

Claaaaang!

“Kurgh!”

The formless sword shattered in an instant as if a wooden sword collided with a steel sword. Si-Hun quickly jumped back as his hands were numb from the impact.

“Fuuu.”

Si-Hun’s eyes sank deeply and he bit his lip anxiously.

*‘... Divinity.’*

That was the only thing that could shatter a sword made of condensed sword energy so easily.

“...”

Si-Hun clenched his fist tighter. He knew how overwhelmingly disadvantaged one without Deific Essence was against one with Deific Essence.

“Fuuu, haaa.” Si-Hun took deep breaths and turned to look at Kang-Woo watching the battle.

*“Thanks... for staying as my little brother.”*

Kang-Woo's words echoed in his head.

*'I can't lose.'* Si-Hun gritted his teeth. *'Not when hyung is watching.'*

Si-Hun's eyes set ablaze with passion.

Riiing.

[Raising Player Kim Si-Hun's assimilation with the Martial God!]

A clear bell chime rang in his head.

\*\*\*

"..."

Kang-Woo frowned aggressively as he watched the battle. He stared at Tae-Hyun who was overpowering Si-Hun.

*'He kinda gives off the protagonist energy as well.'*

If Si-Hun gave off the aura of a Korean manhwa protagonist, then Tae-Hyun gave off the aura of a Japanese light novel protagonist.

*'You know, the trope of the worst class actually being the strongest. Fucking hell. Why are there so many goddamn protagonists? What about me? Huh? What about me, goddammit?'*

Kang-Woo wanted to be a protagonist too.

Chapter 456 - Can I Call You Hyung?

Clang!

Thunderous sounds of metal clashing echoed; sparks flew all over the place as shockwaves shook the training room.

"Kuh!" Kim Tae-Hyun grunted in frustration.

*'What's going on?'*

He held the initiative; Kim Si-Hun's attacks were not hurting him in the slightest and Si-Hun could not take his attacks head-on. Tae-Hyun's attacks were also faster since he possessed Nostrian's Will.

*'So why?'*

Why was he not able to bring the battle to an end? Tae-Hyun anxiously stared at Si-Hun, who was panting heavily.

*'I wanted to show myself flooring the Sword Dragon.'*

Tae-Hyun expressed disappointment. He glanced at Kang-Woo, who was calmly observing the battle.

*'Kang-Woo.'*

Tae-Hyun's heart beat rapidly as he recalled when he first met Kang-Woo. He was like a hero who had come to the rescue when Tae-Hyun was on the ground, on the verge of being kidnapped by the Andras Guild as a sacrifice. He recalled Kang-Woo leaving to eradicate evil without hesitation right after saving him. He admired Kang-Woo.

*'I want to be like Kang-Woo too.'*

He wanted to become a hero who protected the weak as well. He wanted to become just like the protagonists in the stories he had read, which was why he did his best to level up despite being disrespected for being a rogue.

*'And I finally got my chance.'*

Tae-Hyun clenched his necklace, immense power flowing into him through it. He had no idea what kind of power this was or whose it was, but he was certain about one thing: that it would make his dream come true.

*'Please watch me, Kang-Woo.'*

Tae-Hyun looked at his idol; he wanted to look as cool as possible in front of him of all people. He took a deep breath in, lowered his stance, gripped his dagger tightly, and slowly blinked.

*'Foresight.'*

Riiing.

[Activating 'Nostrian's Eye.']

Tae-Hyun set aside the message window in front of him and scanned Si-Hun. Foresight was a skill that he acquired after obtaining the item known as Nostrian's Eye in the unknown dungeon. It was a broken skill that allowed him to look five seconds into the future. He was easily able to block any attack that came his way with it.

"Haap!"

Clang—!!

The sword made of blue light cleaved into two. Si-Hun created another sword immediately after and fluidly continued his barrage of attacks, but none of his attacks managed to get past the small dagger. Si-Hun's sword was deflected all too easily by Tae-Hyun's dagger as if he were looking into the future.

"Haaa, haaa, haaa," Si-Hun panted heavily.

His palms were torn, red blood dripping on the ground.

*'Damn...'*

Si-Hun couldn't believe that every single attack was blocked perfectly. It was like playing chess against a computer. The result was the same however many times he attacked and even if he added feints. It was like trying to climb an insurmountable wall. He could even feel his Qi quickly being depleted.

*'If only... If only I had Deific Essence.'*

If so, Si-Hun would not be so easily overwhelmed. He would be able to overpower the enemy even if they knew his every move, but he was powerless because he did not possess Deific Essence.

*'No.'* Si-Hun bit his lip. *'Hyung beat Constellations of Evil back when he didn't have Deific Essence.'*

To stand by Kang-Woo's side and walk alongside him, Si-Hun also needed to surpass that wall.

*'I can do it.'*

He needed to stand against desperate situations just like Kang-Woo had.

"Haaaaaaaahhh!" Si-Hun roared.

He clenched his sword with both hands as blood poured from his torn palms and pulled out what little remained of his Qi. He brought the sword above his head and swung it down with all his might.

*'Heavenly Dragon Flash!'*

Boooooooooom!!

An enormous explosion shook the training room.

"Huff, huff," Si-Hun panted heavily as blood flowed from his mouth and his vision blurred.

"Phew. That one was a bit dangerous."

Tae-Hyun was staring at Si-Hun in surprise. Despite blocking the attack by predicting the future, Si-Hun's attack had been a serious threat.

Si-Hun's expression stiffened. His all-out attack had been nothing but *a bit dangerous* to his opponent. He lowered his head and said reluctantly, "... I've lost."

Deathly silence fell on the training room. The shocked Guardians members stared at Si-Hun with their mouths agape. Kim Si-Hun, the Sword Dragon who was second only to Kang-Woo in terms of strength, had lost.

"S-Si-Hun," Layla called with a hard expression.

Si-Hun did not answer; he only had his head lowered with his fists clenched with blood pouring from them.

Kang-Woo remained silent as he stared at Si-Hun.

*'Tsk,'* he clicked his tongue. *'I guess not even Si-Hun can overcome the difference made by Deific Essence.'*

The conclusion that Kang-Woo came to after watching their battle was simple.

*'Deific Essence is just hella broken.'*

Tae-Hyun fought hard by moving as if he could see the future, but Si-Hun was objectively above him in all aspects. Rather, Si-Hun proved his overwhelming power by dragging a battle that he never had a chance of winning in the first place for this long.

*'Si-Hun would have easily won if he had Deific Essence.'*

Tae-Hyun was also very impressive for blocking every single attack as if he could see the future, but his movements were honestly very poor.

*'He didn't become that strong through accumulation of effort.'*

He simply won because he had better items. However, considering that Tae-Hyun grew to become this strong only after a month of obtaining that unknown power, his potential was promising.

*'Especially with his movements that look as if he can see the future.'*

Tae-Hyun would become far more powerful with time, to a point that not even Kang-Woo could fathom.

*'That aside.'*

Kang-Woo narrowed his eyes as he stared at Tae-Hyun's necklace with the grotesque eye on it.

*'What the hell is that?'*

What sort of item could allow a below-average Player to surpass Si-Hun?

*'He's not an incarnation.'*

The power that Kang-Woo could feel from Tae-Hyun was different from regular Deific Essence for that to be the case.

Kang-Woo stared at Tae-Hyun, who was waving at him with a bright smile.

*'I'll have to keep an eye on him for a bit.'*

It would be difficult to decide what to do with Tae-Hyun until he figured out exactly what that necklace was. Kang-Woo entered the training room and clapped.

"Great job, you two," he remarked.

"Hyung-nim."

"Don't be so down, Si-Hun." Kang-Woo lightly patted Si-Hun's shoulder. "You did your best."

Si-Hun aggressively bit his lip and lowered his head again, his shoulders subtly trembling.

Kang-Woo was about to say something to Si-Hun but decided not to.

He had recently experienced the pain that came with being weighed down by one's powerlessness.

*'I should just... leave him alone for now.'*

Si-Hun needed some stimulation since he barely had any since the incident with Tai Wuji.

*'Si-Hun hasn't grown at all since then.'*



He had stayed the same from the moment that he stabbed Tai Wuji.

*'I guess it makes sense since the trauma pressuring him has disappeared.'*

Si-Hun was freed from his trauma but now that he was free, he was no longer desperate.

*'Si-Hun is already at a point where he can acquire Deific Essence on his own.'*

However, he lacked something decisive that would allow him to surpass the wall and become even stronger.

*'Not even this would be enough.'*

Kang-Woo clicked his tongue as he stared at Si-Hun, who had his head lowered. He was devastated by the loss, but he likely thought that it couldn't be helped.

*'He's probably thinking that he would've won if he had Deific Essence.'*

If one lost in a game because of the difference in items compared to their opponent, they wouldn't feel desperation or aspiration. They would feel that they couldn't have done anything about it rather than a desire to improve themselves or aspire to become stronger.

*'He needs stronger stimulation.'*

Si-Hun needed something that would make him feel even more desperate.

"Ngh," Kang-Woo groaned.

It was hard to figure out what to do. He couldn't stage a Layla kidnapping again like last time either.

*'He might digivolve into a Skull Greymon again if I push him too hard.'*

Kang-Woo needed something that would push Si-Hun to just the right extent and make him desperate for just the right amount.

No matter how much he thought about it, he couldn't think of anything. Just then...

"Umm... Kang-Woo," Tae-Hyun called,

"Oh, I'm sorry. I was thinking about something."

"N-Not at all!"

Tae-Hyun quickly shook his head. Kang-Woo smirked. If Uriel was like a slightly cranky cat, then Tae-Hyun was like a loyal dog.

*'Looks like I'm being rewarded for living like a saint.'*

Kang-Woo would have never expected the rogue that he saved that day to come back to him in this way. The saintly life that he could swear by the heavens that he had lived was finally rewarding him. Kang-Woo smiled in satisfaction.

*'I still can't fully trust him, but he'll become a good pawn as long as he stays this loyal to me.'*

Kang-Woo smiled nastily.

‘No, no.’ He erased the impure thoughts. *‘I could never use someone. I am light. I am light. I am light.’*

Kang-Woo smiled brightly and extended his hand toward Tae-Hyun. “Welcome to Guardians.”

“Ah...”

Tae-Hyun shook with excitement. He clenched his fists and muttered to himself, “Nice.”

Kang-Woo chuckled at how genuinely moved Tae-Hyun was.

*‘He’s the perfect pawn— I mean, comrade.’*

It was as if a perfectly ripe truckload of watermelons was dropped in front of his house. Kang-Woo gripped Tae-Hyun’s hand tighter as light filled his heart.

“Umm... K-Kang-Woo,” Tae-Hyun called cautiously.

“Yes?”

“Umm... Could I...” Tae-Hyun gulped and continued, “P-Perhaps... call you hyung?”

“Oh, yes. Of course, you can.”

It was not a difficult request; rather, Kang-Woo welcomed the idea of becoming closer to Tae-Hyun.

“Ah, hahaha! Th-Thank you very much, Kang-Woo hyung! You can speak casually to me!”

“Okay, sure.” Kang-Woo nodded with a smile. “... Hm?”

Kang-Woo saw Si-Hun drop his sword made of blue sword energy, which dissipated into the air before it hit the ground. He could see Si-Hun trembling in shock with his eyes wide open.

*‘The hell? What’s up with you, Si-Hun?’*

Chapter 457 - For My Beloved Little Brother (1)

Kim Si-Hun’s expression was frozen beyond belief the moment Kim Tae-Hyun called Oh Kang-Woo *hyung*.

*‘The hell?’*

Kang-Woo stared at Si-Hun in confusion.

*‘Why does he look like his entire world shattered? It’s not like I cheated on him or anything.’*

He felt like he was some husband who was caught cheating on his wife.

Kang-Woo approached Si-Hun and carefully called, “Si-Hun?”

“Oh.” Si-Hun came back to his senses and shook his head with an awkward smile. “I-It’s nothing, hyung-nim.”

*'Nothing, my ass. Why would you make that face if nothing was wrong?'*

“M-My grip loosened. Hahaha. The sword is a little heavy.”

*'That's a formless sword, it doesn't have any weight. He looks shocked, however I look at him. Is it because I allowed Tae-Hyun to call me hyung?'*

Considering the situation, that seemed to be the reason.

*'For real? Just because of that?'*

Kang-Woo chuckled as he stared at Si-Hun averting his gaze from Kang-Woo as he smiled awkwardly.

“I'll be going back to my room. Haha. Welcome to Guardians, Tae-Hyun,” Si-Hun remarked as he approached Tae-Hyun, still smiling awkwardly.

Tae-Hyun smirked as if mocking Si-Hun and grabbed the hand that Si-Hun stretched out. His eyes were filled with the leisure granted to the victor.

*'The hell's with him now?'*

Kang-Woo frowned at Tae-Hyun's attitude which looked as if he were looking down on Si-Hun.

Tae-Hyun replied as if boasting, “Thank you very much. I managed to win *purely by luck* today, but I was able to see how amazing of a Player you were, Sword Dragon.”

Si-Hun remained silent.

Tae-Hyun smiled as he stared at Si-Hun.

*'I heard that Kang-Woo hyung treasures the Sword Dragon.'*

The public already knew that Sword Dragon Kim Si-Hun and Kang-Woo were sworn brothers. It was difficult for them not to know since Si-Hun bragged about Kang-Woo constantly wherever he went.

*'It'll be different now.'*

Tae-Hyun clenched his fist. He won the duel, so the one who would be standing alongside Kang-Woo would be him, not Si-Hun.

“Hehe,” Tae-Hyun giggled innocently.

He imagined himself saving the world from danger with his benefactor who had saved his life in the past.

*'And one day...'*

He would surpass his benefactor and save him from danger! Tae-Hyun couldn't help but smile as he imagined the scene straight out of an anime. His heart beat faster as his passion grew. The ridicule and disrespect that he had faced as someone with the weakest class flashed before his eyes.

*'To do that...'*

Tae-Hyun stared at Si-Hun, who was more handsome than the average celebrity and far more talented than the average Player. He was the epitome of a protagonist.

*'...I have to surpass the Sword Dragon.'*

He had already taken the first step. He was surprised by the unexpectedly powerful attack at the end of their battle, but he managed to defeat the Sword Dragon nonetheless.

Tae-Hyun smiled slyly and continued, "Hahaha. I'll be in your care from now on."

"Ah, yes..."

"We're *brothers* now, aren't we?"

Si-Hun's expression momentarily crumpled. His gaze toward Tae-Hyun shone chillingly. He gritted his teeth and clenched his fists.

"Yes... we are. We're both... brothers. Hahaha."

Si-Hun giggled as his shoulders trembled and turned around to quickly leave the training room.

"Um, Si-Hun..." Layla called.

"I'm sorry, Layla. I'm feeling a little tired, so can we talk later?"

Si-Hun walked toward his room in the Hall of Protection without even looking Layla's way.

"H-Hoho. Si-Hun seems to be a little shocked. I don't blame him since I didn't expect Si-Hun to lose either," Layla said forcibly, trying to sound bright to lighten the mood.

Kang-Woo stared at Si-Hun getting further away.

Tae-Hyun walked toward Kang-Woo and asked with anticipation, "Umm... Kang-Woo hyung. Could you give me a tour of the Hall of Protection?"

The Hall of Protection was the symbol of Guardians. It was a strategic hub that allowed them to have access to the entire world via Gates. All Players wanted to visit the Hall of Protection at least once.

"Yeah, sure," Kang-Woo replied with a smile and nodded.

He took Tae-Hyun around the Hall of Protection.

"Wow, hyung! So this Gate is connected directly to the Grand Canyon? That Gate is connected to Beijing..."

Tae-Hyun expressed astonishment as he looked at the Gates connected to areas all over the world. Kang-Woo stared at him with narrow eyes— to be more exact, at the necklace made of overlapping geometrical shapes that Tae-Hyun was wearing.

*'What could that be?'*

The necklace was unquestionably the item that gave Tae-Hyun his immense power.

*'It has to be an intervention from a deity.'*

One of a considerably high rank, no less.

Kang-Woo scanned the brightly smiling Tae-Hyun in silence.

*'Should I invest in this coin?'*

Kang-Woo's mind was filled with whether or not to invest in the Kim Tae-Hyun coin that had appeared like a meteor. He would be lying if he said that he wasn't curious. Nothing about the item could be examined with the Authority of Insight and it granted its wearer power even stronger than regular Deific Essence and an ability to predict the future. Although Tae-Hyun's movements were poor at the moment, he would become several times stronger once his skills were polished. His potential was even greater than that of Si-Hun.

*'I could also take that item from him and give it to Si-Hun or just use it myself.'*

However, that was like cutting open the belly of a goose that laid golden eggs[1]. Besides, most items Legendary-grade and above were imprinted to their wielder, so it would be pointless to take them from others; especially if it were an item that looked to be at least Transcendent-grade like that necklace.

Kang-Woo narrowed his eyes. Si-Hun also likely thought the same thing.

*'Thinking of it that way, the way Si-Hun acted makes sense.'*

Kang-Woo had thought that Si-Hun was shocked over something so trivial, but he slowly understood his reaction.

*'He wasn't shocked that Tae-Hyun called me hyung.'*

Kang Tae-Soo also referred to Kang-Woo as hyung-nim. If that was why Si-Hun was shocked, he would also not like the way that Tae-Soo called Kang-Woo *hyung-nim*.

*'The difference between Tae-Soo and Tae-Hyun... Si-Hun must be thinking... that his place might be taken from him.'*

It was within the realm of possibility since to Si-Hun, Kang-Woo was someone more precious to him than his blood-related brother; Kang-Woo had rescued him from a life of trauma and led him to where he was now.

*'Si-Hun, you...'* Kang-Woo felt bitter as he thought about Si-Hun's emotions. *'There's no way I would abandon you.'*

Kang-Woo no longer thought of Si-Hun as just a talented pawn. There was no way that Tae-Hyun's potential being higher than Si-Hun's would affect their relationship.

*'I don't think Si-Hun feels the same way, though.'*

Si-Hun let go of his sword the moment that Tae-Hyun called Kang-Woo *hyung*. It was not difficult to guess how shocked Si-Hun was, considering how important a sword was for Si-Hun as a swordsman.

*'Tae-Hyun also fanned the flames.'*

He had blatantly taunted Si-Hun as if he was telling Si-Hun that his hyung was his now.

Kang-Woo recalled Si-Hun's devastated expression in silence.

"Kang-Woo hyung?" Tae-Hyun called.

"Oh, yeah?"

"Is there something wrong?"

"No, I wouldn't say that."

"Then—"

"That aside, could you tell me exactly what happened when you obtained that necklace? Don't leave out a single detail."

"I'd love to, but there are honestly more things that I don't know than what I know." Tae-Hyun gripped the Eye of Nostrian and continued, "There isn't much I can tell you other than that I gained a skill called *Foresight* and that I became extremely strong once I got this necklace."

"Have you heard any voices in your head?"

"No, never."

"Then has your body ever moved in a way that you didn't intend to?"

"That hasn't happened either," Tae-Hyun replied as he shook his head.

Kang-Woo narrowed his eyes.

*'They haven't done anything to him despite granting him that much power?'*

It was far too suspicious.

*'That's impossible.'*

It was as if a millionaire gave the majority of his wealth to a random person on the streets with no strings attached. Something like this with no price or objective was bound to have hidden conditions.

*'This is a dangerous coin.'* Kang-Woo was made sure of it after listening to Tae-Hyun's story. *'But it's too soon to make a move.'*

Kang-Woo still had no way of figuring out who gave Tae-Hyun that power or for what reason. However fishy it was, it would not be wise to give up on the Tae-Hyun Coin.

*'Especially when he's so loyal to me.'*

It would be a huge waste to give up on someone who could be a huge asset if handled well.

*'Allies with Deific Essence are always welcome.'*

Kang-Woo did not expect Tae-Hyun to be of help to him in facing Bael since no one but himself was able to.

*'But the otherworldly invasions are a different story.'*

He would not be able to block the invasions by himself; this was evident by the fact that he couldn't resolve the abnormal phenomena occurring in the Gates all over the world by himself.

*'After all, there's only one of me.'*

No matter how powerful he was, one soldier couldn't defend a castle. He needed dependable allies to keep the castle that was Earth safe.

*'I'll have Lilith keep him monitored twenty-four seven.'*

Keeping his guard up was good enough for now.

"Haha. I never thought a day like this would come. I can't believe I'm touring the Hall of Protection with you... Kang-Woo hyung."

Tae-Hyun smiled as if he couldn't be happier. He seriously reminded Kang-Woo of a dog.

*'His excessive loyalty might become a problem.'*

Kang-Woo sighed as he recalled the war of nerves between Si-Hun and Tae-Hyun. He stood in front of the closed door of Si-Hun's room.

*'What should I do about Si-Hun?'*

He was already getting a headache when thinking about how to console the shocked Si-Hun who had locked himself in his room.

"What's wrong, hyung?" Tae-Hyun asked as he turned around to look back at Kang-Woo, who suddenly stopped in place.

"Oh." Just then, an idea popped up in Kang-Woo's head. "... No, that's a bit..."

Kang-Woo shook his head.

*'But this is the best option.'*

He thought about other options but couldn't think of anything else.

Kang-Woo clenched his fists.

*'Yeah.'*

He had no other choice; he needed to be the one to help Si-Hun overcome the wall blocking his growth.

*'The older brother needs to make sacrifices for his little brother.'*

He needed to steel his heart for the sake of his beloved little brother.

"Tae-Hyun," Kang-Woo called.

"Ah, yes, Kang-Woo hyung?"

Tae-Hyun trotted toward Kang-Woo with a smile. Kang-Woo also smiled brightly and put his hand on Tae-Hyun's shoulder.

"Why don't we go grab something to eat together?"

"Ah." Tae-Hyun's eyes widened. "O-Okay! S-Sounds good! I was just about getting hungry as well!"

"There's a good kimchi stew place I know."

"Kimchi stew! I love kimchi stew!"

"Really? Haha. It looks like we'll get along well."

Kang-Woo patted Tae-Hyun's shoulder and turned around.

Shatter!

The sound of something breaking came from inside Si-Hun's room.

Chapter 458 - For My Beloved Little Brother (2)

*"Why don't we go grab something to eat together?"*

Kim Si-Hun heard a familiar voice from across the door.

Si-Hun gritted his teeth as he was sitting on his bed.

Shatter!

Ferocious energy poured out from him, causing the photo album on his desk to fall to the ground.

"Ah."

Si-Hun looked up in bewilderment. He stood from his bed and walked to the fallen album containing a photo of a smiling Kang-Woo with his arm, holding a kebab, resting on Si-Hun's shoulder.

Si-Hun lifted the photo they had taken back when they went to Caldesann and carefully brushed off the glass fragments.

"Hyung," Si-Hun muttered.

He felt like something was weighing down on his chest.

*"We're brothers now, aren't we?"*

Kim Tae-Hyun's mocking voice echoed inside Si-Hun's head. He clenched his fists tightly.

"You don't know anything."

Si-Hun was boiling with rage despite knowing that it was nothing to be angry over.

*'After all the hard work I put in... to stay as his little brother.'*

Si-Hun did not like the fact that Tae-Hyun had appointed himself to be in the same position as him.

Si-Hun relaxed his fists. He quelled his rage and shook his head. "Haaa. How pathetic am I?"



He scolded himself for having a loser's mindset as he gathered the glass fragments on the ground and threw them in the trash bin.

*'Well, at least he doesn't seem to be scheming anything bad.'*

Tae-Hyun's hostility toward him was likely due to his excessive loyalty toward Kang-Woo; it did not seem to be stemming from ill intentions.

*'And...'*

Tae-Hyun was able to be of more help to Kang-Woo than Si-Hun.

Si-Hun slowly raised his hand. His Qi gathered using the principle of Formless Sword, creating a sword shining blue in the air.

*'Deific Essence.'*

That was the difference between him and Tae-Hyun. His ability that seemed as if he was seeing the future was certainly a hindrance, but there was a way around it. However, no such way existed for Deific Essence.

*'What do I need to do... to acquire it?'*

Si-Hun was drawing a blank. It felt like he was facing an insurmountable wall. It was the first wall he was facing as one who possessed astonishing talent thanks to his Heavenly Martial Physique.

"Haaa," Si-Hun sighed deeply again.

The blue sword in the air turned into tiny particles and dissipated. His thoughts were jumbled. He looked down at the photo that he took out of the broken photo album.

*"Thanks... for staying as my little brother."*

Kang-Woo's words that had guided him toward salvation echoed in his head. His frown relaxed and he smiled.

"Yeah. There's no need for me to compare myself to him."

Si-Hun shook his head as he thought about Tae-Hyun. The relationship between himself and Kang-Woo was not simply that of brothers. They were not related by blood but Si-Hun considered Kang-Woo to be more than his older brother, and Kang-Woo thought the same.

*'If not, there would be no reason for him to say that to me.'*

The weight on Si-Hun's chest lightened and his jumbled thoughts cleared up.

*'I can think of him to be about the same level as Tae-Soo.'*

There was no reason for Si-Hun to think hard about it; he could just treat Tae-Hyun the same way that he treated Tae-Soo. After all, Tae-Hyun was now a member of Guardians.

"Maybe I'll ask him for a duel next time."

Si-Hun might be able to find a clue that would allow him to surpass the wall blocking his growth.

*'I'll train with Balrog today.'*

He wanted to move around a little more, possibly because he lost to Tae-Hyun. Si-Hun left the room, his steps much lighter than before.

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“Huuu, huu,” Si-Hun panted heavily as he lay on the ground after his duel with Balrog.

“Did something happen to you today?” asked Balrog after he put on the pendant to return to human form.

“Why do you ask?”

“You’re a little more *desperate* than usual.”

Si-Hun narrowed his eyes, not sure what Balrog was talking about. “What does that mean?”

“It means exactly what I said. You were fighting as if something was chasing you. Oh... well, you were like that in the past too.”

“...”

“Rather, that desperation of yours has been severely lacking lately.”

“What are you talking about...?”

“Are you not aware of it?” Balrog snorted and continued, “You are no longer *desperate* after the battle against Tai Wuji.”

Si-Hun felt as if he had been hit on the back of the head with a sledgehammer. His eyes widened and he trembled slightly. “I’m... not desperate?”

“Correct.”

“Bullshit. I simply haven’t had enough time lately because I’ve been killing monsters. I haven’t been slacking on my training.”

“That is not what I’m saying,” Balrog answered firmly. “I am simply saying that you have lost your desperation.”

“That’s the same th—”

“No. They are different.”

“...”

“In the past, every single swing you took was filled with desperation. Each of your movements felt as if you were frantically chasing after something.”

“...”

“But not anymore. You are... no longer desperate.”

“Ngh.”

Si-Hun bit his lip and glared at Balrog. Balrog’s words felt like they were gutting him.

‘No.’ Si-Hun shook his head, denying Balrog’s words. *‘I’ve been training more desperately than anyone to catch up to hyung.’*

“I’m gonna go,” Si-Hun muttered.

“Very well.”

Balrog smirked as he stared at Si-Hun turning around temperamentally and walking away. Si-Hun left Balrog’s house. He could see people busily filling the streets after leaving the barrier that blocked regular people from entering.

Si-Hun put on a hat and mask to conceal his face and trudged along.

*‘I lack... desperation?’*

Balrog’s words echoed in his head. Displeasure spread throughout his body as an unknown sense of anxiety took over.

*“Thanks... for staying as my little brother.”*

Kang-Woo’s words once again echoed in his head, erasing the displeasure that he was feeling. The anxiety disappeared before Si-Hun had realized it.

“Haha,” Si-Hun laughed as his expression relaxed.

*‘Yeah, there’s no need to worry.’*

He had already overcome his trauma. Balrog’s words that Si-Hun lacked desperation were referring to Si-Hun back when he was controlled by his trauma.

*‘Of course, I wouldn’t feel like the same person as back then.’*

Si-Hun was saved by Kang-Woo, his beloved older brother. He was freed from his lifelong curse.

“I should call hyung-nim later.”

Si-Hun walked along with a smile.

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“Hyung-nim?”

- Yeah, Si-Hun?

“Are you free to talk right now?”

- Sorry... I’m hanging out with Tae-Hyun right now.

“Again?”

- Yeah. I’ll call you later.

“Oh... Okay, hyung-nim.”

- Is anything going on with you? I've barely seen you lately because I've been so busy.

"Haha. I'm fine."

- Okay. I'll call you later.

Kang-Woo hung up.

"He must be busy," Si-Hun muttered.

Kang-Woo was busy helping Tae-Hyun adapt to the various duties of being a Guardians member for the past week.

"It's only natural since hyung-nim does a lot of other things besides that."

Kang-Woo was so busy that Si-Hun worried for his wellbeing. He was so busy with matters of the divine realm, Aernor, and Earth that Si-Hun had no time to talk to him.

"Haha. Yeah... It can't be helped." Si-Hun closed his eyes. "..."

Thud.

"Ah..."

Si-Hun had dropped his smartphone. He picked it up and put it on his desk.

He lay on his bed.

*'The abnormal Gate phenomenon reported yesterday was resolved by Tae-Hyun.'*

There had been no other reports after that. Si-Hun slowly fell asleep.

"Ah." He woke up several hours later and got out of bed. "I fell asleep before I realized it."

Si-Hun had thought about having another training session with Balrog, but he had fallen asleep for several hours. He fixed his disheveled hair and went out of his room.

"Mm?" He came across Kang-Woo sitting in a chair after reaching the meeting room.

"Hyung—"

As he was about to greet Kang-Woo with a smile...

Vrrrr.

"Yeah, Tae-Hyun? What's up?"

Kang-Woo was talking to someone over the phone. Si-Hun's smile froze.

"Yeah. I'm over by the Hall of Protection."

Si-Hun clenched his fists tightly without realizing it.

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*'He's here.'*

Kang-Woo subtly glanced over to the hallway and saw Si-Hun staring at him.

*'Well, then.'*

Kang-Woo kept the smartphone over his ear and continued with a smile, "How's the training going?"

There was no answer.

"Really? Haha, that's a relief."

Kang-Woo continued to speak to himself.

"Yeah. I'll head over there once I finish going through this paperwork."

*'Si-Hun. You understand, right? You know I'm doing this for you, right?'*

"Haha. Yeah, okay. I'll see you there."

*'You've gotta surpass the wall blocking you and acquire Deific Essence too. I'm doing all of this for your sake.'*

"Tae-Hyun."

*'Okay? You feel me, right? You know that I have no choice but to do this even though it breaks my heart, right?'*

"You have no idea how much of a relief it is you have you with me."

*'Right? I have no choice, right? I'm not a fucking scumbag, right?'*

"Thanks... for staying as my little brother."

Kang-Woo spoke as naturally as he breathed despite his growing sense of guilt.

Chapter 459 - Surpassing the Wall (1)

Kim Si-Hun's world went white. His breathing turned erratic and his head was burning up.

*'Hyung?'*

He wanted to call Oh Kang-Woo but his voice was not coming out. His vision was blurring and his legs lost their strength.

*'Why... why, why, why?'*

Si-Hun continued to ask himself in his head.

*"Thanks... for staying as my little brother."*

Kang-Woo's words that had saved him swirled around his head. Those words had been what linked the two of them; it was proof of the fact that they were more than sworn brothers.

*'But... why?'*

Why was Kang-Woo saying that to Kim Tae-Hyun? It was as if Kang-Woo no longer needed Si-Hun.

*'No, that's impossible. After all that we've been through together.'*

They had decimated the Demon Cult and battled Satan, the Four Heavenly Kings, and even the Constellations of Evil together. They had fought frantically across countless battlefields to protect the world from the clutches of evil. So why was someone who had gotten stronger only because he was lucky, taking Si-Hun's spot as Kang-Woo's little brother?

Si-Hun gritted his teeth. A blazing emotion welled up from within him.

*'What's... the difference?'*

Si-Hun thought about the difference between him and Tae-Hyun. Why was Kang-Woo paying more attention to Tae-Hyun than Si-Hun?

He did not take long to figure out the answer.

*'Deific Essence.'*

That was the only thing that Tae-Hyun had that Si-Hun did not, and what was needed most in these dire times.

*'It's because of Deific Essence.'*

Kang-Woo had sacrificed everything to save the world. He understood how dependable one who possessed Deific Essence was when the world was in crisis.

*'That's why he accepted Tae-Hyun as his little brother.'*

If that were not the case, Kang-Woo would not pay this much attention to Tae-Hyun.

"Haha," Si-Hun laughed dryly.

The answer that he had come to was disheartening.

*'Hyung-nim had no choice either.'*

Kang-Woo had reluctantly been babying Tae-Hyun and answering his childish needs because he needed to do whatever it took to have him as an ally for the sake of the world.

*'Yeah, that has to be it.'*

Nothing else would explain Kang-Woo's behavior. Si-Hun gritted his teeth and walked away from the meeting room where Kang-Woo was sitting.

"Deific Essence," Si-Hun muttered.

He needed Deific Essence to make Kang-Woo look his way again and to stay as his little brother.

"I'm sorry for giving birth to you."

He heard the cursed words he had long since forgotten, which had shackled his life for years.

"I need... Deific Essence."

Si-Hun staggered down the hallway.

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Kang-Woo slowly closed his eyes in the silent meeting room.

*'This should be enough.'*

Si-Hun needed a unique form of stimulation to surpass the wall he had reached. He needed something that would reawaken his past trauma.

*'It isn't only his talent that allowed Si-Hun to power up in moments of danger.'*

The trauma that shackled him was what drove his awakening.

*'It might not be anything much for other people, but...'*

Si-Hun's trauma and his desire to be acknowledged by the most precious people in his life were out of the ordinary for most people. However, for Si-Hun, who had been abandoned by his father, harassed by his older brother, and whose life itself had been denied by the most important person in his life, it was more important than anything.

*'He'll desire salvation once again. He'll work frantically to be acknowledged once again.'*

Kang-Woo remained silent. He sighed and put his hand on his forehead. "... Maybe I should've used another way."

Regret belatedly swept over him. Although Kang-Woo had done it to help Si-Hun awaken Deific Essence, he also thought that it was a little excessive.

*'No, this isn't simply an issue of Deific Essence.'*

It was easy for Kang-Woo to give Si-Hun Deific Essence; he just needed to make Si-Hun his incarnation. Just like how Layla was able to use a portion of Gaia's Deific Essence, Si-Hun would be able to use a portion of Kang-Woo's Deific Essence as well.

*'But that's meaningless.'*

Kang-Woo would've made Si-Hun his incarnation if Si-Hun himself had no chance of acquiring Deific Essence on his own, but it was more than possible for Si-Hun to acquire it on his own. No, it was a wonder why Si-Hun had still not managed to.

*'He needs some sort of decisive trigger.'*

Si-Hun needed something that would allow him to surpass the wall blocking his growth.

*'Si-Hun can do it.'*

If it was the Si-Hun that Kang-Woo knew, he would easily be able to surpass his limits and acquire Deific Essence.

*'And when that happens,'*

Si-Hun would surely spread his wings and grow to astronomical heights.

"Deific Essence that one awakens on their own is completely different from regular Deific Essence."

Deific Essence was a fraudulent power, but there was a massive difference between those who were born with Deific Essence without any cost and those who acquired Deific Essence on their own.

*'If I make Si-Hun my incarnation and just give him Deific Essence, his growth would stop then and there.'*

He would be reduced to someone with borrowed power despite having the potential to become a god on their own.

"I can't let that happen."

Kang-Woo narrowed his eyes. Although he felt bad for bringing back Si-Hun's trauma, he had no other choice. Abnormal phenomena within Gates were growing; it had even reached a point where an unknown item that Tae-Hyun was wearing appeared from within it. Si-Hun needed Deific Essence as soon as possible.

*'As for the others...'*

Kang-Woo thought about his other party members but shook his head.

*'Let's focus on Si-Hun first. He needs just the right amount of stimulation.'*

Since Si-Hun had once fallen because Kang-Woo had pushed him too far, Kang-Woo needed to dial it back a little.

*'I shouldn't push him any more than I already have.'*

He needed to tell Balrog and Layla to watch what they said to Si-Hun since those two met Si-Hun the most often.

*'Once I make Si-Hun put his all into training...'*

Kang-Woo would then appear to make some sort of tearjerking performance.

*"As for my lines... Who gives a shit about Deific Essence?! Even without that... you're my precious little brother! Yeah, let's go with that."*

Kang-Woo was already cringing from the thought but it couldn't be helped.

*'Si-Hun likes this sort of thing.'*

Considering what he had done to Si-Hun, he was more than willing to blurt out cringeworthy lines; after all, Kang-Woo was ultimately the one who made Si-Hun's trauma resurface.

"That aside."

Kang-Woo looked down at his muted smartphone on the table. It was filled with messages from Tae-Hyun.

*'Why is this kid so loyal to me?'*

Kang-Woo did not dislike it, but he felt that it was a bit too excessive.

*'To make a comparison, it's like one of those extremely devoted idol fans.'*



Tae-Hyun felt like someone who couldn't hold back his joy of being able to work together with his idol.

“Ngh.”

Whatever the case, Tae-Hyun was exhausting to deal with.

“Well, it can't be helped.”

Kang-Woo needed to stay with Tae-Hyun until he figured out exactly what the *Eye of Nostrian* that Tae-Hyun had obtained was.

Kang-Woo closed his eyes as he thought about Si-Hun and Tae-Hyun. He once again felt like he had flowers (stamens) in each hand.

*'Fuck.'*

He clenched his fists and shook his head.

“Darling... Darling...”

Kang-Woo's sorrowful voice filled the meeting room.

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“*Huff, huff,*” Si-Hun panted heavily.

The training room had become a mess. Si-Hun took a staggering step.

“Heavenly Dragon...”

He squeezed out what little remained of his Qi and raised his sword made with blue sword energy. However, the formless sword made with sword energy dissipated into thin air.

“Haaa, haaa,” Si-Hun panted as he watched his sword vanishing. “Kurgh.”

His knees buckled from the exhaustion of pulling out too much Qi.

“No...”

He couldn't collapse here. He put strength into his buckling knees and forcibly stood back up.

*'It's not enough.'*

Si-Hun raised his hands again as he bit his lip. A faint blue light gathered into the shape of a sword.

*'To earn Deific Essence...'*

He needed Deific Essence to stay as Kang-Woo's little brother.

“Fuuu...”

Si-Hun took a deep breath in; a small amount of Qi within nature entered him through his breath.

*'I need to acquire Mind's Sword before I can earn Deific Essence.'*

He had a feeling that it was the final gateway that he needed to pass through to acquire Deific Essence.

*'A sword of the mind, huh?'*

It was a common stage in martial arts. Si-Hun had read hundreds of books about its theory that he had borrowed from Tan Wuchen.

"I have no idea."

However, he couldn't even begin to grasp what a sword of the mind was. Si-Hun, who had been growing without any barriers thanks to his extraordinary talent, was having a hard time manifesting an extremely vague concept.

"Haaa."

Si-Hun clenched his hair and turned around. His knees buckled once again.

Si-Hun frowned aggressively.

"Huh? Si-Hun?"

Tae-Hyun entered the training room as Si-Hun was about to move his trembling hands.

Si-Hun glared at Tae-Hyun in silence.

"Mm. It looks like you're training until quite late."

"Yes."

"Haha. That's the Sword Dragon for you. I should learn a thing or two from you."

Tae-Hyun smiled brightly at Si-Hun but it carried a tiny amount of ridicule as well.

Si-Hun turned around in silence.

"Anyway, have you seen Kang-Woo hyung?"

Si-Hun tilted his head in wonder, maintaining his frown. "Weren't you with him today?"

"No. We were planning on meeting, but... he seemed pretty busy."

Si-Hun remained silent.

*'Did something come up along the way?'*

Si-Hun smiled unbeknownst to himself from the fact that Tae-Hyun and Kang-Woo were not able to meet up. Noticing that, Tae-Hyun glared at Si-Hun in anger.

"Come to think of it... I heard from Kang-Woo hyung that the reason why you weren't able to beat me back then was because of the thing called Deific Essence."

"..."

"Haha. I also heard that the only Players in Guardians who have Deific Essence are me and Kang-Woo hyung." Tae-Hyun continued leisurely, "It seems... hyung and I go well with each other, don't you think?"

"..."

Si-Hun frowned aggressively.

Chapter 460 - Surpassing the Wall (2)

“Good for you. You happened to acquire Deific Essence *purely by chance*,” Kim Si-Hun narrowed his eyes and continued, “Without any form of effort whatsoever.”

“Ngh.”

Kim Tae-Hyun slightly frowned. He wanted to deny it, but it was an undeniable fact that he had gained power simply by chance.

‘I...’

Tae-Hyun clenched his fists.

“*What? A rogue? Sorry, we don’t need you.*”

“*We don’t have any heals to waste on a rogue so just screw off and give first aid somewhere else.*”

“*For fuck’s sake, what use are you if you can’t deal or tank damage? Just quit being a Player.*”

Tae-Hyun lost his family at the hands of monsters on the Day of Calamity. This tragedy was not only his; countless people lost those precious to them on that day. He thought his life would change once he awakened as a Player five years after the Day of Calamity; he thought he could become the hero he had dreamed of becoming ever since his family died before his very eyes.

However, reality was cruel. The Trait he had awakened was treated worse than useless by the other Players.

‘I...’

Tae-Hyun became desperate since that day. He wanted to become a protagonist. He wanted to overcome his adversities and grow stronger like a shounen manga protagonist. He wanted to be praised by others and save the world from danger with style. And...

He wanted to tell his family, whom he couldn’t save, that he had managed to protect people this time. He, who had dared to survive by himself after being unable to do anything, had saved the world and the countless people in it. It had become his life’s purpose to tell them.

“Without... any effort?” Tae-Hyun bit his lip and glared at Si-Hun. “I could say the same to you!!!”

Unlike Tae-Hyun, who wasn’t acknowledged by anyone after awakening as a Player, Si-Hun grew stronger without stopping as soon as he awakened because he had talent, unlike Tae-Hyun. Tae-Hyun glared at Si-Hun. He knew that this was nothing more than petty jealousy and that he would be the only pathetic one for acting this way.

“If only it weren’t for you...”

The dream that Tae-Hyun had been desiring all this time was right in front of him, but his wild dream of becoming a hero who was praised by all was already taken by someone else; someone with the title of Sword Dragon.

Silence fell. The two men took out their weapons simultaneously as if no words were needed.

Bang.

Tae-Hyun shut the door behind him and entered the training room. He took a stance as he held a thirty-centimeter dagger in a reverse grip. Si-Hun held a formless sword made of blue sword energy and calmed his heavy breaths. His sword was shining far less brightly than usual.

*'Dammit.'*

Si-Hun could not be in a worse state due to having trained to his limit until just now. His legs were shaking, his breathing was heavy, and he barely had any Qi left.

*'But...'*

Si-Hun had a feeling that he shouldn't fall back.

*"You are... no longer desperate."*

Si-Hun recalled Balrog's words. He denied them and considered them to be nonsense at the time, but he could feel it as well.

*'I'm... not desperate anymore.'*

He had given up on going past the first wall that he had ever faced in his life. He thought that he did not need to get any stronger than he already was.

*'Hyung.'*

To walk alongside Oh Kang-Woo and to lighten the weight on his shoulders even a little, Si-Hun needed to surpass the insurmountable wall blocking his path.

"Fuuu," Si-Hun took a deep breath in.

He replenished his Qi stores through his breaths. It was nowhere near enough to fill his usual abundant stores, but he needed everything he could get at the moment.

*'Heavenly Dragon Concealment.'*

Si-Hun turned faint as if a dragon was concealing itself within the clouds and disappeared into thin air.

*'I don't have a chance in a head-on battle.'*

He realized through the last battle how pointless it was to take an opponent with Deific Essence head-on. There were only two ways for someone without Deific Essence to face someone with Deific Essence; they could either use enough power that the Deific Essence was unable to block or focus their attacks on a point where the Deific Essence barrier was weak.

*'The first method is impossible.'*

Si-Hun had felt that he did not have enough Qi even when he was at his best, so it was out of the question when he barely had any Qi to use.

*'I'll focus on where the barrier is weak.'*

It was like aiming for the gaps in the armor of an opponent with full-plate armor.

Clang! Clang! Clang!

“Urgh...”

It was a near-impossible strategy for a regular warrior to even attempt, but Si-Hun had long since surpassed that stage. Si-Hun sword continuously struck Tae-Hyun's shoulder. The sword bounced off of the Deific Essence barrier with a clear sound of clashing metal.

*'I knew it.'*

Si-Hun nodded after feeling a recoil much weaker than before. He had felt it during his previous battle against Tae-Hyun as well, but the Deific Essence barrier was weaker in areas where the individual paid less attention. One would naturally be more wary of attacks aiming at their vitals such as the head, heart, and neck. However, protection around areas like the shoulder and thigh, where their life wouldn't be threatened even if they were attacked, was weaker.

“Kuh,” Tae-Hyun grunted.

He was unable to follow Si-Hun's movements. He would have been sliced into pieces as soon as the battle began if he hadn't been protected by Deific Essence.

*'Dammit.'*

Tae-Hyun bit his lip. He could feel the overwhelming difference between himself and Si-Hun.

*'I knew from the start that I was lacking in skill.'*

However, he possessed a skill that could easily make up for it.

*'Foresight.'*

Faint light poured out from the Eye of Nostrian. Light particles resembling crystal fragments wrapped around him. It didn't matter where Si-Hun was or whether or not Tae-Hyun could follow his movements.

*'Now!'*

Tae-Hyun turned around and lowered his dagger. Si-Hun's sword, which was aimed at his thigh, was deflected by the dagger.

Si-Hun frowned.

*'This again.'*

His attack was blocked as if his opponent could see the future. Si-Hun was sure that Tae-Hyun couldn't follow his movements, but he managed to block the attack regardless.

*'How far into the future can he see?'*

He needed to figure that out first and foremost. Si-Hun fixed his grip on his sword and set aside his initial plan of getting through the Deific Essence barrier.

*'Heavenly Sword Rampage.'*

Countless attacks poured down on Tae-Hyun, who deflected every single one of them with his dagger despite being able to leave it to his Deific Essence barrier to block them for him. It was a blunder that arose from his lack of battle experience and Si-Hun did not let that blunder get past him.

*'Five seconds.'*

Si-Hun's eyes shone. Tae-Hyun had predicted Si-Hun's attacks exactly five seconds into the future.

*'What a broken ability...'*

Si-Hun felt even more disheartened after figuring out Tae-Hyun's ability. Being able to see five seconds into the future was invaluable in a battle where even a millisecond was precious.

Clang! Clang! Clang!

"Hmph, where did your vigor from earlier go?" Si-Hun snorted once he regained his composure.

He was easily able to block Si-Hun's attacks after using Foresight, but blocking them was all he could do. He was not yet skilled enough to counterattack.

*'It's okay,'* Tae-Hyun thought as he stared leisurely at Si-Hun. Si-Hun was noticeably exhausted, so he would collapse on his own as long as Tae-Hyun held out without attacking.

*'I can win.'*

Tae-Hyun leisurely blocked Si-Hun's attacks.

"Huff, huff, huff," Si-Hun panted heavily.

He swung his sword while drenched in sweat, but he was ultimately unable to even graze Tae-Hyun.

Riiing.

[Your Qi has been depleted.]

[Continuous use of martial arts will lead to Qi deviation.]

Messages appeared in front of Si-Hun but he ignored them and gripped his sword tighter.

*'I can't afford to back down.'*

He recalled Kang-Woo and the powerlessness he felt as he stared at his back. Chasing after Kang-Woo was already so agonizing, so he couldn't even imagine how agonizing it would be for Kang-Woo to be that far forward.

*"You are... no longer desperate."*

Si-Hun heard Balrog's words again. He could now understand why Balrog said something like that.

*'It was because I was hiding behind hyung's back.'*

Si-Hun thought that Kang-Woo was strong enough to resolve any danger that the world would be placed in; he thought that Kang-Woo would be able to stop anything like a superhero in a film. That was how extraordinary Kang-Woo's feats were. Si-Hun thought that everything would be resolved as long as he hid within Kang-Woo's shadow, hence he did not bother to be desperate.

"Fuuu, haaa," Si-Hun calmed his breathing.

He was out of Qi and his fingers could barely move.

*'I can do it.'*

He needed to surpass the wall blocking his path.

*'I...'*

Si-Hun continued to breathe. Miniscule amounts of Qi filled his empty dantian.

*'It's not enough.'*

This amount of Qi was not enough to surpass Tae-Hyun's Deific Essence. He needed even greater power.

*'But how?'*

Si-Hun's Qi consumption rate was astronomically faster than the rate of accumulation.

*'Wait.'*

Si-Hun's eyes widened. His breaths were an act to absorb and store Qi from within the atmosphere.

*'Why do I have to store it inside me?'*

Si-Hun felt as if he had been struck by a lightning bolt. If Qi was within the atmosphere, why did he need to go out of his way to absorb it by breathing before using it?

*'What if I just... use the Qi straight from the atmosphere?'*

If he could, his internal Qi or his dantian would not matter.

*'No... even my body... has never held any meaning.'*

Si-Hun had been shackled by his physical form. It was only natural since he was a human with a physical body. He spent his entire life seeing, hearing, smelling, touching, and tasting. However, Qi was different; it was all around them. There was no point in confining it in a body. The only reason why Si-Hun had confined the Qi within himself to use it until now was because he simply did not know how to effectively use the energy.

*'But now...'*

He was different. He already knew how to freely use the Qi within the atmosphere. He had already surpassed the concept of having a dantian and was able to use the energy of nature.

*'I simply never used it until now.'*

He was finally able to understand the meaning behind the words *Mind's Sword*. It was nothing superficial like infusing energy into his bloodlust or cutting with just his willpower.

*'It's to... abandon my body. My dantian.'*

It was to escape his physical form and become one with the world's energy. It was to control the boundless energy only with his *mind*. That was the essence of *Mind's Sword*.

Riiing.

[You have fully assimilated with Martial God Tian Taihuang!]

[You have realized the *Mind's Sword*.]

[You have reached the initial stage of the Transcendent Realm!]

[Granting the title 'Sword of Heaven' as per the Law of Titans!]

[You have acquired the Upper Intermediate-rank Deific Essence 'Heavenly Sword'!]

"Haaa."

Whaaaam!

Immense energy raged along with a barrage of message windows. Blinding blue light swirled around Si-Hun.

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"Shall I go see how Si-Hun's doing?"

Kang-Woo, who purged the stamens from his mind with the help of Han Seol-Ah, headed to the Hall of Protection.

*'He should be in the middle of training about now.'*

Kang-Woo was sure that Si-Hun would be isolating himself in the training room, training frantically.

*'I should cheer him up so that he doesn't push himself too hard.'*

It was not good to push Si-Hun over the edge; Kang-Woo was working to provide Si-Hun with just the right amount of stimulation.

"Let's see..."

Kang-Woo passed through a Gate to enter the Hall of Protection and headed toward the training room.

*'Huh?'*

Just then, he felt a Deific Essence that he had never felt before.

*'Has a god manifested?'*

Kang-Woo frowned aggressively and quickened his steps toward the training room.

Boom! Crash!



*“Kurgh! Cough!”*

There, Kang-Woo saw Tae-Hyun getting pummeled by Si-Hun’s sword slashes.

*“What’s going on?”*

Kang-Woo’s eyes widened. An unrealistic sight was happening before his very eyes. He couldn’t believe Tae-Hyun and Si-Hun were fighting out of the blue, but the flow of the battle was even more unbelievable. Si-Hun, who had been floored by Tae-Hyun only a week ago, was overpowering Tae-Hyun as if it had never happened.

*‘Deific Essence. It’s Deific Essence.’*

Tae-Hyun was blocking Si-Hun’s attacks with his foresight ability but was unable to block them completely. The only way this could be possible was if both of them possessed Deific Essence.

*‘Si-Hun finally awakened Deific Essence!’*

Kang-Woo’s mouth was left agape. It had only been a day since he had provided Si-Hun with stimulation. Si-Hun had achieved what Kang-Woo had expected him to take around three months at least, a year at most.

*‘I knew it was the right choice to stick with the Si-Hun Coin!’*

This was likely how an investor felt when their stock price rose tripled in just one day that they bought it.

*‘It’s not over yet.’*

Si-Hun was getting stronger with each passing moment now that he acquired Deific Essence, proven by the blue energy wrapping him getting thicker. Kang-Woo clenched his fists.

*‘Let’s go, let’s go, let’s go!!!’*

To the moooooooooooooon!!!!