

Overgeared 1311

[Chapter 1311](#)

“There is no access from here on.”

At the road to Kars, capital of the Cho Kingdom...

He picked a rough mountain road to move, but the defense was thorough. It was clear what it would be like elsewhere. Even a single ant wouldn't be able to enter Kars.

“I have business in Kars. When will the access restrictions be lifted?”

“I'm not sure... the capital can't be blocked forever, so I think it will be released soon.”

“Can I ask what incident happened?”

“What incident? We are just preparing for an important festival, so we're temporarily blocking anyone outside from entering.”

“Is that so? Then keep up the good work.”

The capital was the heart and face of the kingdom. It wasn't good if it was known that something had happened in the capital, so he understood the position of the Cho Kingdom.

Kraugel politely bade farewell to the soldiers before secretly using True Clouds. Blue clouds covered the foggy mountains and the soldiers' five senses were temporarily paralyzed. Kraugel leisurely passed through the blockade.

“Why are there clouds all of a sudden...?”

The bewildered soldiers couldn't imagine that the handsome young man who just went back had already passed by them.

Upon arriving in Kars, Kraugel examined the city while avoiding the eyes of the soldiers. There were white bones scattered throughout the city and traces of tombstones being excavated. It was clear that the reason for the collapse of the street houses and palace walls was a necromancer's invasion. There were also traces of at least a dozen necromancers invading.

‘This...?’

Kraugel frowned as he searched through the rubble of a wall. The wall's surface was uneven like they had been cut with a saw, but there were no cracks in the cut part. It was proof that a saw blade, not a sword blade, had cut the wall quickly in one blow. Kraugel knew the master of this swordsmanship.

‘Cao.’

The orc warrior death knight. It was none other than Agnus' servant. In other words, it meant there weren't dozens of necromancers who invaded Kars. It was Agnus alone. Agnus had been working alone since he abandoned Immortal. Some people might argue that one player couldn't turn a big city into ruins.

'They are safe despite Agnus' invasion.'

Kraugel's thoughts were the opposite. He was greatly impressed with Kars' power, which protected the city after Agnus' invasion.

'Is it the power of the red phoenix?'

Kraugel quickly inferred the reason why Agnus failed to capture Kars. The loss of the Kars army was surprisingly small. There were few casualties, so Agnus had difficulty securing bodies and he eventually had to withdraw. It must've been possible because the power of the red phoenix continued to heal the wounds of the soldiers.

'It seems that Agnus hasn't grown unexpectedly.'

The Baal's Contractor who momentarily appeared in Muller's story showed the dignity of an absolute. It was enough for him to protect the Behen Archipelago alone from the great demons' forces. Moreover, soldiers died more easily than great demons. The dead soldiers were soon resurrected as slaves to Baal's Contractor, so it was impossible for a human army to stop Baal's Contractor.

Yet Kars stopped Agnus' invasion relatively easily. All the houses outside the city inner walls were destroyed. They gave up on the outer walls and defeated Agnus. It was a remarkable achievement even considering that Agnus was incomparably weaker than the former Baal's Contractor. Judging from the status of the tombstones, Agnus must've spent quite a long time collecting power.

'Even such a powerful kingdom became infinitely smaller in front of the yangbans.'

Kraugel indirectly felt the greatness of the yangbans and looked tired.

"Kraugel?"

Kraugel waited without avoiding the familiar voice and a woman appeared. She was none other than Jishuka, the woman so beautiful that it made Kraugel impressed even though he didn't care about the concept of appearance.

"Did you help the Cho Kingdom?"

One more reason was added to Agnus' defeat. Kraugel quickly grasped the situation and Jishuka smiled at him.

"It is the strength of the Bow Saint."

It was Bow Saint, not Povia's Descendant—someone who succeeded in pioneering her own path was standing right in front of him. Kraugel's eyes were extremely warm as he gazed at Jishuka. His respect was revealed.

"Congratulations on becoming a legend."

"There is still a long way to go when compared to Grid, but... thank you."

Jishuka scratched her head like she was embarrassed by the praise. She showed no signs of regret at all. Kraugel was once again convinced—it was definitely more interesting to carve out his own path. He had

pursued pure fun from the game after his mother overcame her illness, so he shouldn't forget the essence of 'the game should be fun.'

"I am the thankful one. Thanks to you, I can see hope."

"Huh? What?"

"Haha."

"What is it? Tell me quickly."

Jishuka was the only person in the world who could grab the collar of Sword Saint Kraugel and he couldn't help laughing. Kraugel had a brief exchange with her and left for Kaya.

Time was fair to everyone. Just as the members of the Overgeared Guild grew during Grid's adventures, Mercedes also wrote new chivalry codes. The place where a knight should die was the battlefield. It was a chivalry code written from the enlightenment gained by seeing Irene's young and healthy appearance.

Mercedes noticed that Grid didn't want his precious people to die a vain death and injected energy into her body through the new chivalry code. The results were astounding. Miraculously, the origin true energy that she used to fight the ancient monster was restored. Her bone density increased and her white hair returned to its original color. Layers of skin fell off to be replaced by new skin and the scars and calluses on her body disappeared.

At first, Mercedes was in turmoil. She felt ashamed that her hands and skin had become as soft as a child's. She had lost the calluses she gained from training all her life and was worried she might've lost her qualifications to be a knight. It was a groundless worry. She was actually undergoing a metamorphosis—it was an evolution, not a degeneration.

"I remember the first time I met you."

Grid smiled brightly when he saw the blue hair that Mercedes had recovered. The first meeting—Mercedes recalled the memory of telling Grid to kneel and blushed.

"I-I'm sorry."

"It is as pretty as it was back then. Don't let it turn white again."

It wasn't just a confession of his tastes. It was advice telling her not to overdo it. Origin true energy was something that was directly related to life force. Grid didn't want to see Mercedes exhaust her origin true energy because of him again. It was heartbreaking when thinking back to the sight of her hair turning white.

"I will keep that in mind."

Mercedes gave a good answer. Contrary to her response, the light in her eyes was blazing. Grid saw it and shook his head.

'If the same situation occurs, then I will protect you.'

Grid definitely felt it—he had become stronger. It was enough to be considered the strongest in the Overgeared Kingdom. Therefore, he walked while thinking he should take on greater responsibility. Suddenly, he stopped in place. It was due to the man standing in the middle of the large hallway. The moonlight flowing through the window shone on his silver hair.

“Braham.”

Braham’s nose was raised so high it seemed like it would hit the ceiling. Braham’s lowered eyes and raised chin made it seem like he was looking down on the world as always. “You are cocky.”

“Huh?”

Was this what should be said to a friend he hadn’t seen in a long time? Grid frowned when he heard the word ‘cocky’ instead of welcoming words. Then Braham smiled and flicked his finger. The landscape changed. The wide hallway covered with a red carpet and the scenery of the night sky collapsed and soon disappeared. Countless bookshelves started to fill the space like grains of sand in the desert. This infinite library was one of Braham’s mental worlds. It was his first world, the Knowledge Room.

“This is unbelievable...”

Grid started shaking in an overwhelming manner. He was overwhelmed by Braham’s mental world, which was so large that it reminded him of Chiyou. It was already another world. It could be added to concepts such as earth, hell, and heaven. Braham was even able to implement a total of three worlds. This meant that even this huge world was only a party of Braham.

“Do you know what people should be most vigilant about?” Braham appeared where the corners of the library were cut at certain angles and asked.

Grid carefully replied, “I think it is laziness.”

He had recently witnessed the frightening power of laziness. The grandmaster when he was affected by the Curse of Sloth was completely different from when he overcame it.

Braham shook his head. “No, the most important thing to watch out for is pride.”

“.....”

Was this what he should be saying? Braham was arrogant and thought he was the best in the world. Did he perhaps read Grid’s mind as Grid glared at Braham?

“I’m not arrogant because I am the best.”

“Ah, yes.

“On the other hand, you are different.”

Braham’s red eyes were more provocative today.

“You are still a child. Don’t mistakenly think you are strong yet.”

Grid was frustrated. He fully understood Braham's intentions, but he still found it unpleasant. It was ridiculous that Braham still considered him a child when he had learned Chiyou's secret technique and built up his divinity. He wondered, "Is there a problem with your eyes?"

"Are you trying to deny my assessment?"

"Of course."

"Then try changing my assessment."

Braham pulled out Belial's Staff and placed it at an angle on his shoulder. His expression was terribly arrogant as he dared Grid to try it. Grid didn't refuse. He really wanted to accurately judge how far his skills had developed. Braham hadn't yet regained his original strength, so they should be well-matched.

Grid deployed Transcend just by holding the sword. Then he immediately used Shunpo. The moment he appeared behind Braham, he realized that Braham had disappeared from view. Shunpo, which was proof of a transcendent, was met with teleportation magic. Grid was amazed by the power of 'magic that is triggered without casting' and looked around. Then he heard Braham's voice from above his head. "This is one of the ways to hit a person using Shunpo."

".....!"

Did he predict how Grid would fight? The magic that Braham cast in advance using Alarm was triggered in a timely manner. It was Disintegrate. A spear of light that destroyed existences pierced Grid's body.

'It is harder than I thought.'

There was light in Braham's eyes as he watched Grid trembling in pain. It was because Grid endured the legendary great magic. It was so amazing that Braham got goosebumps all over his body. This was the first time that Braham had opened his mental world against a human and armed himself with a staff. His plan was to smash Grid with one blow to teach him a lesson before letting Grid learn a new spell.

He was surprised because contrary to his thoughts, it wasn't that easy.

'He has reached the stage where I need to worry.'

Was it him who was arrogant? There was a smile on Braham's face. It felt completely different from his usual twisted smile. It was a smile derived from pure admiration and joy.

[Chapter 1312](#)

Beriache, the great demon of satiation—she peeked at the rules of the world and condemned Yatan. After being exiled, she gave birth to 10 children. She repeatedly warned her children who had great desires like herself.

'Don't harm your own blood and flesh. If you covet your siblings' blood then my aspirations will be in vain. This is a warning.'

Braham Eshwald was the only child who rebelled against her ultimatum of deep concern. Braham coveted infinite knowledge and tried to overcome the Curse of Sloth. He turned away from the words of his mother, whom he loved and respected.

This was the cause of Braham's life being plagued by grief and suffering.

'Would I have met you if the Curse of Sloth still controlled me?'

It was also the beginning of the miracle that led to the meeting of Braham and Grid. Braham didn't regret going against his mother's words.

"Sky."

The sword dance that declared itself as heaven. As if shouting that he would punish those who doubted and denied him, Grid connected all types of powerful sword dances. Braham's lips curled up in a happy smile at the sight.

He was happy. He was proud that he had been of some help to this 'close to complete' being who was a blacksmith and the Hero King, a person who wasn't a Sword Saint, but glimpsed the extremes of swordsmanship. A person who also had the qualification to learn magic.

There was a rainbow reflection. Braham was thrilled as he returned the waves of sword dances to Grid using the legendary great magic that reflected all attacks. It was because Grid counterattacked and returned all the sword dances to him. Braham dodged using Teleport and defended his body with Shield. Then he spoke in a rather excited voice, "As you know, I am truly a genius."

"Gasp... Gasp... Yes, yes, you are."

Grid hadn't expected all his sword dances to be reflected. If it was before he obtained Chiyou's secret technique, he would've died just now. It would've been impossible for him to react with Flower Revolve. Unlike the gasping Grid, Braham spoke calmly, "However, there were certainly geniuses who were better than me."

Mumud and Marie Rose—meeting them placed a terrible curse on Braham. The curse of resenting his lacking talent. Braham sometimes shed tears as he measured their talent against his own. At the same time, he felt great pleasure. He was able to set his goals higher due to the presence of people greater than himself.

"Every time I vowed to go beyond them, my passion swelled like the sun. However, now..."

".....?"

"I think you can surpass me so my passion is hotter than at that time."

"Huh?"

No, what was this? It was honestly too much of a leap that he could surpass Braham. He heard these words after being helpless for five minutes. It must be lip service... The frowning Grid suddenly had a thought. Braham, giving lip service? It was impossible bullshit. Braham didn't care about others. He was a being who had no experience in pleasing others. All his words were heartfelt.

'Then will I surpass Braham one day?'

Meteor fell toward the head of the thrilled Grid.

"In about 1,000 years?"

“Aaaack!”

How long had it been since he was beaten so neatly? He felt like swearing.

“Groan...”

Grid sat upright the moment his stamina recovered a bit and he recalled the battle. To be honest, he didn't feel like he made any mistakes. His loss was because Braham was too strong.

‘The strengths if a transcendent didn't work.’

Grid's speed was blocked by Braham's predictions and his reflexes were counteracted by instant cast magic. Shunpo could originally change the situation with a single use, but it was countered with Teleport. It was like fighting a chariot with a cannon in Korean chess.

‘The biggest problem is that my behavior was predicted...’

It felt like he was dancing on Buddha's palm. It wasn't just because Braham was clever. It was because he had lived for hundreds of years and had rich experience in fighting. Grid had been fighting every moment for the past 10 years, but Braham was a character who had been fighting dozens of times longer than him. If Braham was a tiger, then Grid was just a newborn puppy.

‘This doesn't mean that I can take my defeat for granted.’

It was natural. If he got used to defeat simply because he lacked talent and experience, then he would face countless defeats in the future. His records of defeat would pile up like a mountain. The enemies that Grid had to face were beings who had existed for at least hundreds of years.

“Don't get frustrated.”

Braham smiled as he sat to one side and held his chin. Did he meet a god or something? Grid had grown so fast that it even gave rise to this absurd idea. He had believed himself to be the strongest and didn't hide his arrogant and confident spirit, only to be helplessly defeated. Braham expected him to be shocked, but he was surprisingly calm.

“Why should I be frustrated when you are my opponent?” Grid confessed honestly.

His opponent was Braham. He was the strongest magician of all time and had even accumulated divinity recently. He might not have recovered to his prime, but it was natural for him to be stronger than Grid. Didn't Braham overpower Piaro 'unarmed' even before he built up his divinity?

“Rather, I'm glad that I lost to you. I would've been shocked if I couldn't grasp the subject and lost against someone else.”

Grid fully understood Braham's desire to fight. Braham wanted to ask the grateful Grid ‘Who will you lose to apart from me?’ but he shut his mouth before he asked. He got up, looked around the library, and inquired, “Of course. You don't like reading, right?”

Grid once had a reading phobia. It was especially bad in his school days when he lived with textbooks and study papers. He resented the textbooks and study papers that he couldn't understand no matter

how much he read. However, this had changed since Satisfy started. It has been a few years since he was forced to read all types of strategies and encyclopedias, forcing them into his head. He became very familiar with reading.

He replied, "No, reading is my hobby."

"Is that so? It is surprising."

"....."

Grid was flustered when Braham said this without scoffing. Just a few years ago, Grid was a fool. Wasn't Braham the one who called him a stone head? He thought it would be good if Braham didn't mock him after he said he read. So what was this satisfied expression?

"The stone has fallen off your head. I wanted this to happen and you really made reading a hobby."

It happened when Grid glared at Braham who was seriously muttering to himself...

The bookshelves filling the infinite library moved by themselves and changed their layout. Soon, a bookshelf came in front of Grid and towered over him.

"Choose one."

The dozens of millions of books stored in the library were embodied fragments of Braham's knowledge. It meant the contents of all the books were different. However, on the outside, they all looked the same.

"What are these books?"

"My magic is written in the books on that bookshelf."

".....!"

Braham's books of magic! Grid's heart that he had stabilized jumped wildly again. In fact, he had abandoned magic. He could no longer learn magic the moment his second class, Legendary Great Magician, changed to Duke of Wisdom. Still, he hoped that Braham would separately teach him magic. It was just that Braham's response was so strong despite Grid's intelligence exceeding 4,000 that he was forced to throw away his remaining regrets.

Now he was freely given the magic books. There were also hundreds of books of magic.

'If I learn all of this...'

Couldn't he become Braham's successor? Grid gulped and pulled out a book. He was about to open it when Braham spoke like he was surprised, "Don't you have any worries?"

"They all look the same on the outside anyway. Does it make sense to worry about choosing?"

The hundreds of books on the bookshelf just had black covers. They were books without titles. It was impossible to tell what it was so he could only pick one at random.

"However, you can only pick one book. Why don't you think about it a bit?"

"Huh?"

Braham really meant that he could only choose one? Among all these books? Grid made an absurd expression and Braham explained to him, "Unfortunately, you can't master a variety of magic."

"Why?"

He acknowledged it only when his intelligence stat was low. Braham's enhanced style magic was something that even renowned magicians couldn't learn. He thought it would be greedy to learn magic from Braham when he only had a few thousand points in intelligence.

However, Grid's current intelligence was heading toward 5,000 points. Braham said the acquisition condition of his basic magic was 4,000 points so the condition was already met.

"Can't I learn all the basic spells now?"

"It isn't a matter of intelligence. It is aptitude."

"Are you saying that I'm lacking aptitude?"

Honestly, this sentence wasn't very pleasant. He had obtained Legendary Great Magician as a second class and then it evolved into Duke of Wisdom. This meant six of his stat points were invested in intelligence every time he leveled up. Yet now he was lacking aptitude? What about all the points that were forcibly invested in intelligence? Grid barely swallowed down his rising anger.

"It can't be helped because fighting energy is circulating in every passage where mana should be circulating."

"....."

"There is nothing to regret. This has made your sword energy stronger."

In fact, Braham's heart was the same. He didn't express it outwardly, but Braham had wanted to make Grid his own disciple. He wanted to make Grid a magician like himself. However, what could he do? Grid's body became a harmony between sword energy and fighting energy and it was no longer suitable for a magician. The only good thing was that Grid's intelligence had improved considerably.

There were a few passages to circulate mana so even if he couldn't digest multiple magic techniques, learning magic itself was no problem. Of course, this was only a story for when Braham helped.

"For you, magic will have to be a choice and requires concentration."

Magic was a multi-step process, with five to ten steps per technique type. However, Grid could only learn one spell per step. It was a serious disadvantage for Grid if he could only learn ordinary magic. The story was different when it came to Braham's enhanced magic.

Braham's enhanced magic created a lot of power with just one magic. Even if Grid only learned one magic, he wouldn't envy the magicians who had learned 10.

Braham confirmed it and glanced at Grid. "If you have been guided to that book, then don't hesitate to open it."

"Can I pick something else?"

Grid had chosen the magic book without thinking so there was no choice but to hesitate. Braham smiled at the indecisive Grid. "My knowledge should've responded to your shortcomings."

"...I understand."

At this point, Grid had to understand it. He gave up on his hesitation and opened the magic book. Braham's eyes shone brightly. "You've picked well."

[Chapter 1313](#)

The way mana was used was divided into several different techniques. The flow of mana changed according to the technique applied, the magic core responded, and the magic was completed. However, there was fighting energy in all the mana circuits in Grid's body. It was also as thick as tar. As a result, the flow of mana wasn't smooth.

It didn't mean that the match between fighting energy and mana was bad. It was a side effect that occurred because Grid's fighting energy was in harmony with sword energy. The opposite would've occurred with sword energy if Grid had a harmony between mana and fighting energy.

'Someone did this.'

Who was the one who changed Grid's circulation? Braham, the magician, didn't like it, but he didn't think of beating up this unknown person. He noticed that Grid's potential had risen thanks to this. While this person was an enemy to Braham, they were also the one who gave an opportunity to Grid.

'I don't think they are an ordinary master.'

Braham found it difficult to guess the identity of the other person despite his knowledge being as vast as the sea. However, it hurt his ego to ask Grid about the identity of the person. He just accepted that the world was wide.

"You've picked well."

Braham soothed his regret and his eyes soon brightened as he watched Grid. The magic book picked by Grid was a good choice. On the other hand, Grid's expression was rotten. "I've picked well? Are you serious?"

Decoy—this was the identity of the magic in the magic book he picked. It was a type of dummy magic that made a bird of mana to deceive the opponent. It was a disheartening result for Grid who wanted powerful destruction magic or weapon enchant-based magic that maximized his items.

'It would've been a big jackpot if I learned Meteor.'

He had set a big goal for himself. Grid had longed for Meteor ever since designing Failure. He couldn't help being disappointed. Then Braham asked him, "Is it destructive power that you lack?"

"...I don't think it is lacking."

"Are you lacking the ability to protect your body?"

"It isn't that either."

Braham nodded as Grid answered honestly.

“That’s right. The thing you are most lacking is experience. Decoy is a precious magic that will fill your lack of experience.”

“Decoy will fill up my lacking experience?”

Grid couldn’t get a sense of it. Decoy was something that Grid had used previously. During the time when his second class was Legendary Great Magician, one of the magics that was temporarily activated due to the effect of increasing intelligence was Decoy. It was definitely useful at that time. He used Decoy to confuse the other person and make them reveal a gap.

However, the opponents that Grid would have to face in the future were powerful beings like Braham in front of him. Would such a trivial trick work on them?

Braham pointed his staff at the distrusting Grid. “Try using Shunpo.”

“Yes.”

Grid immediately used Shunpo.

[Shunpo has failed to trigger.]

“Cough...”

“.....”

Shamefully, there were several failures. Then the moment the successful Grid took control of Braham’s rear, Braham teleported away. This was the result for the entire battle. A transcendent’s combat style of ‘leaping through space with Shunpo to strike’ didn’t work at all.

‘Does it make sense for Teleport to be used faster than Blink?’

The movement magic that magicians used in combat was Blink, not Teleport. It would be possible to leap through space with just one second of casting, unlike Teleport that required a long casting time.

The movement distance was very short and it had the fatal disadvantage of not being able to select the location they moved to. Even so, magicians were able to fight against knights thanks to Blink. They approached and attacked the sword-wielding knights with Blink.

However, Braham was completely different from the usual magician. Rather than using a second, Teleport was activated immediately and he moved to his desired location. Who in the world could catch him? He was a crazily fraudulent character.

Grid was looking around when he felt Braham’s presence behind him. ‘I got him!’

Had he grown from one spar? Unlike the earlier spar, Grid succeeded in capturing Braham’s position in an instant and he reached out with a joyful face. However, it wasn’t Braham that he grabbed. It was a mass of magic power. It was a bird made of Decoy.

“.....?”

Were his transcendent senses tricked? Grid looked like he had seen a ghost and Braham appeared in front of him.

"I fully understand why you distrust Decoy. It isn't high ranking magic but there are some benefits compared to the clone skills."

His words were accurate. Grid could use clones thanks to the power of the great demon imprinted on the rune. It was just that every time he used the clones, strong people quickly found the main body. Then what about Decoy which was merely a mass of magic power?

Grid guessed that it would have no effect, unlike the clones that confused the opponent for a while. Yet just like Braham's Teleport, the Braham style Decoy was different from ordinary Decoy.

"The advantage of Decoy is that it is a lower ranked magic." Braham extracted a small amount of magic power and formed a bird. It was as red as blood, and as large and fierce as a bird of prey. "It inherits the mana nature of the caster."

"Ah!" Grid let out a cry of excitement when he realized why his transcendent senses were deceived. Decoy might not be able to deceive the other person's eyes like the clones, but it could perfectly deceive their senses. Of course, it was possible because it wasn't an ordinary Decoy. It was Braham's style of Decoy.

Grid was fidgeting as he thought about how to use the flexible Decoy. Then Braham smiled and spread open his arms. It was a pious act that reminded people of a great master. "Assimilate it."

At the same time.

[Decoy (Enhanced) has been learned.]

[Decoy (Enhanced) Lv. 1]

[Separates mana to summon a bird.]

The bird's range of motion is five meters around the summoner and it will last for 10 seconds.

Summonable Range: 1 meter radius

Cooldown Time: 3 minutes.

Mana Consumption: 1,000]

'Transcend.'

In order to grasp the opportunity without variables, he had to make the probability of Shunpo 100%. Grid judged and used Transcend. Then he immediately activated Shunpo and Decoy. He used Shunpo to move to Braham's side while he summoned Decoy behind Braham's back. The bird that Grid summoned was as black as a crow.

Braham nodded. "Okay. Once applied in this way, it will be difficult for the other person to determine your location with just their senses."

Well, even so...

“It doesn’t mean much if you burn them both at the same time.”

“Uwaaaack!”

“In any case, he is a willful old man...”

It was still a long time until his immortal cooldown ended. Grid, who hadn’t expected to be attacked, complained as he drank a potion and Braham scoffed.

“It is your fault for being careless. In any case, the usage of Decoy is endless. Be sure to devote yourself to devising new methods so you can use it more diversely.”

“Yes...”

It was Braham who was telling him that he was careless, not anyone else. Grid clicked his tongue as he recalled Braham’s past of being stabbed in the back by a friend. Then the Knowledge Room collapsed and disappeared. Mercedes greeted Grid and Braham as soon as they returned to reality, “You’ve worked hard.”

“Yes,” Grid answered without thinking.

‘How does she know that he worked hard?’

Braham had a strange feeling. Even the Duke of Wisdom, Braham, felt awkward around Mercedes despite understanding the truth of the world. He couldn’t figure out her potential because he couldn’t measure the depth in those quiet eyes.

“Bah.”

It happened the moment when the uncomfortable Braham scoffed and turned around...

“?”

Braham felt a new miracle approaching and stopped on the spot.

“There is an issue to report.”

Soon after, Faker popped out of the shadows. Grid was shocked because he only felt Faker’s presence once Faker was close.

“It is amazing after he has become Lantier...”

Grid truly admired it. A being who erased his existence from the world—he had already experienced it and knew that Lantier’s stealth skills were on a different level. He just never dreamt that Faker would’ve already assimilated it.

‘It has only been a few weeks since he changed his class. To reach this level...’

How far would he grow? Grid gulped as Faker told him, “There is a report that Rothschild has started to move. They feel the need to keep us in check and are doing many things.”

“Why do they feel the need to keep us in check?”

Chairman Lee Jinmyung said that the world's leading group and families had invested in Satisfy a long time ago. It was said that Rothschild was one of them, from as early as the open beta period. Their foresight was second to none. However, he was told that their purpose was to accumulate wealth. They could make a deal with the Overgeared Kingdom and there was no need for a hostile relationship.

"I don't know the details yet."

Faker reported the incident in Reidan to the confused Grid. Grid listened silently before nodding.

"So the words of the revolutionaries haven't been confirmed to be true or not."

The revolutionaries said they had Rothschild behind them, but... what was the truth?

"Don't issue a killing order yet. Let the revolutionaries move freely while keeping an eye on the situation."

It was a smarter Grid. He wasn't blinded by anger and pursued practical interests. Faker nodded and moved back into the shadows. Grid already lost his presence before he moved less than 10 meters. Braham had been watching silently and now he laughed.

"This kingdom is going crazy."

It wasn't to this extent when Braham was first resurrected—there was only one farmer who could be called quite capable in the Overgeared Kingdom, yet now...

"Huh?"

"Nothing, I was just talking to myself."

Braham shook his head and left. He was smiling. He was proud of Grid who brought together so many great legends. It was an achievement that no one had been able to do before, no, they didn't even try it.

"Let's go," Grid urged Mercedes.

It was the graduation day of the very first graduates since the establishment of the Overgeared Academy. He planned to encourage the new talents, meet Sticks, and then travel to Cokro Island.

The stars in the night sky sparkled brilliantly. They seemed to be illuminating Grid's future path.

[Chapter 1314](#)

The Overgeared Kingdom was a kingdom established by players. The policies of the Overgeared Kingdom were innovative considering the fact that the existing nations were based on the Middle Ages. One of the biggest topics in the world was the education system in the Overgeared Kingdom.

It was an equal education system that didn't discriminate against identity, gender, and talent. It was one step above the empire which claimed that talent didn't care about the rich or the poor.

'I didn't expect it to have grown this much.'

Grid clicked his tongue as he visited the academy for the first time in ages. The Overgeared Academy's location was always expanding and it already felt like a city. It could be argued that the Overgeared Academy was larger than any other campus in reality.

'I am proud.'

Grid knew how important learning opportunities were. He walked around the campus in a happy manner and his emotions were deep. It was seven years after the establishment of the Overgeared Academy. It was finally the graduation day for the first graduates. He was already looking forward to seeing how many talents would emerge.

"I would like to welcome Your Majesty."

The Overgeared Academy had dozens of departments. There were hundreds of professors alone. There were celebrities that Lauel had worked hard to invite from all over. The reason they were professors of the Overgeared Academy wasn't because they coveted wealth or power. It was out of respect for the great sage, Sticks.

"You have worked hard."

Grid greeted the professors. He honestly admired the people who shared the knowledge and experience that they had accumulated throughout their lives. However, he was also worried. Many of the professors were white-haired old men. Most of them were about to retire.

'Lauel will soon suffer again.'

"Why did you come so early?" Sticks secretly reproached him.

It was almost time for the rooster to cry. In other words, it was still early in the morning and there was a long time left before the graduation ceremony began. Grid, by coming here at this time of the day, disturbed things. He had to accumulate his mana so early in the morning... would he faint while giving a speech to the graduates?

Grid launched at Sticks, who was anxious in advance and trying to prepare a teleport spell. "I wanted to quietly look around campus while there are no students. I also wanted to greet the professors who have been working hard so far."

"I see."

'Thanks to you, the professors who have to get up early in the morning are going to die.' Sticks swallowed down these words. He was aware that Grid's diligence had reached a level beyond common sense. He was worried about sleeping properly.

"The menu is terrible."

It was after taking one walk around campus. Grid frowned when he visited the cafeteria to eat breakfast. The freshly baked bread was delicious because it was soft and rich in flavor, but the side dishes were bad. The soup tasted like hot water, as if it hadn't been boiled for a long time.

"I am wondering if students can concentrate on their studies after eating just this food."

Grid didn't hide his unhappy heart. What happened to the budget he gave the academy every year? The food wasn't even provided properly. Were the excellent facilities just for show?

'Who is taking the money for the meals in the middle?'

He would have to hurry to send Rabbit's monitoring team—Grid made a serious vow. Then Sticks told him, "There are still two hours until breakfast. The food hasn't been completely prepared. If you come and say something like this, the cooks will be upset."

"....."

He had forgotten for a moment. He lived fiercely every day and started his day earlier than others. His concept of time was distorted. Grid was coughing with embarrassment when Lauel joined him. As prime minister, he also planned to attend today's graduation ceremony. "Aren't you over-meticulous?"

"....."

Lauel's soft whisper made Grid feel even more embarrassed.

It was before the graduation schedule began. Graduates who came to the academy early in the morning visited their respective departments. They wanted to thank their teachers who had taught them for so long.

"My father was living alone in my hometown. When his house collapsed due to a typhoon not long ago, the reason I was able to reassure him without becoming frustrated was purely thanks to Teacher. I used the skills I learned from Teacher to rebuild the pillars. I covered the walls and ceilings, and built a new house for my father. I want to thank you for teaching me without discriminating against me for being the son of a butcher."

"My hometown is in the mountains. I was a person who cleared the ground with fires. My family and neighbors lived in shabby huts. In the summer, we suffered from heat and insects. In the winter, we trembled from the cold. However, it is different now. Every vacation, I go home and repair the homes of my family and my neighbors. Hehe... Thanks to Teacher, I was able to turn the shabby huts in my hometown into warm houses. Thank you so much."

A house was one of the most important factors in human life. However, like most professional skills, construction skills weren't taught to anyone. Architects were proud of their profession and were cautious about raising disciples. Anyone suspected of having no origin or lacking talent couldn't learn the art of building a house.

The poor people had to build houses relying on the knowledge and experience of the adults around them. The houses that were built were very incomplete. On the surface, it looked fine, but there were many problems with soundproofing, cold protection, and waterproofing. The durability was also poor.

For students in the architecture department, their teachers were gods. They would build homes for the poor at a low cost and spread their skills... they would build a country where there were no children sleeping while the ceiling leaked rainwater.

"That friend and that friend."

Grid watched the architecture students greeting their teachers from afar and picked out two students. Lauel wrote down their names. Grid was holding the King's Sword in his hand.

“Thanks to Teacher, I’ve suffered several fractures, stretched ligaments, and my muscles became strong. Thank you so much, Teacher.”

“I learned while being beaten by Teacher. Now I’m not afraid of most people. I went to my hometown during my last vacation and thieves threatened me. It was so funny that I pissed myself.”

“Your mouth is really bad. Should I cancel your graduation so you will study for another year?”

“Hahaha... I really appreciate it, Teacher. I will never forget Teacher’s grace in turning an ordinary hunter like me into a good swordsman. From now on, I will devote myself more and aim to become a knight!”

“It was an honor, Teacher!”

“It was an honor!”

The ninth department Grid visited was the swordsmanship department. Compared to other departments, the number of students was much higher and there were many graduates. There were a huge 137 people, but none of them were talented. It was natural.

Talented people wouldn’t enter the academy. If they had talent, they would’ve become a disciple by catching someone’s eye or directly becoming a knight. In the first place, the students attending the academy were those who had to earn a living. They worked for half a day and came to school for the rest of the day to receive an education. Therefore, they barely honed their basic skills in these seven years to earn the graduation qualifications.

“Still, I see people who are better than ordinary soldiers.”

The prime minister had a high discerning vision—it was because he gained unique stats and skills when he rose to the position of prime minister. The prime minister, Lauel, smiled as he stood beside Grid and watched the graduates.

“Once they go back to their villages and join the vigilante group, they will be a big help in maintaining security.”

“Yes.”

In the future, there would be graduates every year. The number would also increase by several times.

In the next 10 years, people were technical skills like experts and people with combat skills like soldiers would be seen throughout the villages. Then once they started raising disciples, the people of the Overgeared Kingdom would grow into outstanding talents one by one in a few decades.

Grid was happy, but he was also a bit disappointed.

Talent—one of the most unfair concepts in the world, it sometimes deceived people. It was often the case where it would be gone for several years or even decades, only to suddenly appear and surprise the people around them. This was commonly referred to as talent perseverance or resilience. Even people who were considered as stupid when they were young could develop above average talents if they worked hard. This was the case with Grid himself.

It was the so-called 'great talent matures late.'

'I had high hopes that some of the graduates would be more skilled than expected...'

However, this wasn't the case at all. Most of the graduates were mediocre. Grid had only found five talents in the nine departments and they were only slightly better than ordinary people. They would be a bit usable after working hard for the next few years.

However, there was no such person in the swordsmanship department. It was disappointing for Grid since he had high expectations for the swordsmanship, magic, and elemental departments.

'The magic department's problem will be even more serious. Can I only believe in the elemental department?'

All those who had some talent for magic entered the magic towers. The chances of finding an outstanding magician in the academy was significantly lower.

'There are limits to solely relying on the UI clan.'

Most of the Overgeared Kingdom's magicians consisted of those from the UI clan. In addition to their small population, they had a problem when communicating with ordinary people. The UI clan were a minority and they had different values. There was a reason why the talents of the UI Clan, who had been in charge of education at the academy and the magic tower, couldn't endure for long and resigned.

"Your Majesty!"

"I greet Your Majesty!"

"....."

Grid was suddenly awakened from his thoughts. The students of the swordsmanship department bowed the moment they saw Grid in the distance.

"Rise. I didn't mean to interrupt."

Grid couldn't turn away so he entered the training field and raised the students up. The eyes of the students were full of respect as they looked at him.

They were just like the young people dreaming of becoming blacksmiths. The reason why the students of the swordsmanship department dreamed of becoming swordsmen was because they respected Grid. It was the same for the students in the magic department. Grid fought and overcame all enemies with swordsmanship and magic and he was the dream of the people. Their goal was to resemble Grid even a little bit.

Lauel smiled as he saw the students whose eyes were shining like lanterns.

"Your Majesty, I think the students want to see your swordsmanship."

Gulp.

Lael created the situation and the students gulped. It was hard for them to miss the opportunity to see Grid's swordsmanship up close when they had only heard about it through rumors. The excitement of the students caught Grid.

'It is a bit embarrassing, but...'

It was just swinging his sword. It wasn't a big deal. Grid reached out to a young man whose eyes were particularly bright.

"Can I borrow a wooden sword?"

Rabbit might appear if he used a real sword here.

"I-It is an honor!"

The young man politely offered his wooden sword as the others around him gazed at him enviously. Grid's shoulders trembled with tension and excitement as he looked around the training field. His gaze wasn't limited to the target. He looked around and recognized the entire battlefield.

'Let's test my power like this.'

Grid's sword dances could now be used without taking any steps, but it was possible to maximize the power by taking up to four steps.

Step.

Grid took a step forward while holding the wooden sword comfortably.

Rumble!

The atmospheric pressure lowered. The students thought it was an illusion, but they soon realized this wasn't the case. Grid took another step, and this time, the earth shook. The sands on the training field vibrated and generated noise. A transparent sword energy emerged from the tip of Grid's sword.

"Ahhh."

The students, professors of the swordsmanship department, and Mercedes let out cries of admiration. Grid's back as he took the third and fourth steps was something they couldn't even imagine. It was so huge.

"Pinnacle."

The martial god—a sword dance that reproduced Chiyou's blow, not that of Zeratul, who was just a copy.

The wooden sword was wrapped in a radiant light and fell in a straight line. There wasn't even a small noise, let alone a destructive wave. However, Mercedes could see the atmosphere being cut in half. Then a shockwave occurred one step late. The wind pressure created shook the trees around the training field. The leaves swirled for a while before falling to the ground.

"Gasp..."

The professors and students of the swordsmanship department exhaled.

'Huh?'

Grid felt something strange as he returned the wooden sword to the young man with clear eyes. Therefore, he placed his hand on the sheath hanging from his waist. He was touching the King's Sword. Then the active Talent Search responded to the young man.

[Name: Bethell

Age: 21 Gender: Male

Class: Swordsman

Title: Sword Seeker

The strike of the Overgeared King changed his world. He will live trying to reproduce Grid's strike for the rest of his life.

The power of a slash attack is increased by 50% to 400%. Sword Mastery proficiency acquisition speed is increased by 300%.

Level: 195

Strength: 981/1,590 Stamina: 360/630

Agility: 319/551 Intelligence: 210/509

Obsession: 10

Skills: Beginner Sword Mastery (D), Overgeared Academy Swordsmanship (D), Curse of the Strike (S), Sword Seeker (S)]

[Curse of the Strike]

[Passive

He is fascinated by a strike he can never reach in his lifetime. This powerful curse will keep him in despair and cause him to constantly develop.

* Generate the Rage stat.

* Each time the rage stat is accumulated, the power of slash-type attacks will increase significantly.

★Whenever the rage stat reaches its maximum, the stats limit will be broken.

Cooldown Time: None

Resource Consumption: None.]

"Lael."

"Yes."

"Include this friend as well."

"I understand."

It was the moment when the story of Chiyou and Pagma was recreated on the ground. Grid was deeply interested in Bethell while Bethell was frozen. Grid's sharp eyes that were filled with greed were hard for humans to handle.

[Chapter 1315](#)

Grid toured dozens of departments and was able to find a total of 11 talented people. Even so, Bethell was the only one with great talent. The remaining 10 were just ordinary. They wouldn't be able to reach the top of their field. Of course, he had no intention of disparaging them. Not everyone could be the best.

'It is painful that there isn't anyone from the magic department, but... it isn't bad.'

Grid felt regret. Then he thought about his current results and was convinced that the harvest was sufficiently large enough. Moreover, the Overgeared Academy wasn't a prestigious school. Rather than only selecting and enrolling qualified people, they also accepted ordinary people, even those who couldn't read, and started the education from the basics.

In the first place, talented people didn't knock on the doors of the academy. Talented people would go to talented people in the field to become their disciples and receive higher education. It was a remarkable and grateful miracle to find 11 talented people who met Grid's standards here.

"Um."

At the auditorium...

it was the place that the elemental department usually used for practice and it was where the graduation ceremony today would take place. After arriving there, Grid adjusted the Overgeared King's Crown and wore the Ruler's Cloak. Then he opened the door to the auditorium while repeating the carefully written speech in his mind. There were a thousand people in the room and their gazes turned to Grid.

"You punished the corrupted pope and saved our church from a crisis."

"You restored the authority of our church by unsealing the First Holy Sword."

"I greet Overgeared King Grid, the benefactor of tens of thousands of Rebecca followers, friend of Pope Damian, and the one who is favored by Goddess Rebecca."

The excited atmosphere in the air quickly subsided. The moment Grid appeared, the Rebecca Church's envoys participating in today's activities knelt down and saluted simultaneously. It resembled the scene of praying to a god. Isabel, one of the renowned Rebecca's Daughters, was known to not even bow her head to the empire's ruler, yet she was infinitely polite and reverent in front of Grid.

"Uwah..."

Making a messenger of a god kneel when she was only loyal to the goddess—the graduates realized how great their king was and shouted loudly. The water clan and Twilight Orc envoys also shouted loudly like they were competing against each other.

"Bless the rescuers of the water clan!"

“In awe of the strongest warrior!”

Soundproofing magic was used, but the sound was about to leak out.

Stone-like skin and a big stature—the warriors of two races reminiscent of golems overwhelmed the graduates. The graduates saw all types of wounds on their tight muscles and noticed that these people were warriors who dominated the battlefield. It was amazing that they were like gentle sheep in front of Grid.

“Kelpato, duke of the Arc Kingdom, greets the great hero, King Grid.”

What duke? The power representing one nation was completely humble in front of Grid. The rumor that Grid defended the Arc Kingdom by fighting against the 13th Great Demon Beleth alone was an unexaggerated truth. Additionally, figures from the East Continent, like the Han Seokbong father and daughter, as well as ethnic minorities like the UI clan, silently bowed to Grid.

Every time Grid took a step, people’s stature lowered. The graduates thought there were no more surprises, but this was a mistake.

“I’m glad I’m not late. It has been a long time, Overgeared King...”

Immortal King Grenhal—the most powerful among the dukes of the empire and the absolute power that made kings of other nations bow down. He could be called an existence that was ‘below one person and above 10,000 people.’ He came here and greeted Grid in such a happy manner?

The graduates and the high-ranking officials of the Overgeared Kingdom were so surprised that their mouths dropped open. Grid was also amazed. No, he was already in a daze.

‘Why are all these bigshots coming to the academy graduation ceremony?’

It was ridiculous that these distinguished guests were more excellent than those who came to the founding ceremony several years ago.

Lauel smiled happily. ‘This is what you’ve accomplished over the years.’

It was why Lauel didn’t complain to Grid despite needing to work hard every day. In the past few years, Grid had never wasted time. There was a good reason every time he was away from the throne. Grid was active all over the world and the status of the Overgeared Kingdom was elevated.

“The Hero King Grid, who purified the Behen Archipelago, is stepping on the stage.”

Sticks had fun watching the situation and now he joined in on praising Grid’s past achievements. It made Grid more embarrassed, but he didn’t show it. How could he show agitation in front of the people watching? He was a king. He was the face that represented them.

Grid stood on the stage and calmly opened his mouth, “You’ve worked hard and suffered in the last seven years.”

His voice spread to every corner of the large auditorium even though he didn’t use the speech amplifier technique installed by Sticks. He had the strange power to make people focus on his bold, yet calm, voice. It wasn’t just the graduates. The distinguished guests present also listened to him intently.

“The end is another beginning. In the future, every step you take forward in society, you might suffer new failures and encounter various setbacks. However, every time that happens, remember the seven years you spent at the academy and overcome it. The moment you are afraid of failure and turn away from the challenge, you will become a loser. So you shouldn’t be afraid of failure and you should constantly challenge yourself. Don’t forget that new glory is waiting for you just like the glory of graduation that you achieved today.”

In the speech written by Huroi, there were many parts that resonated with Grid. Everyone suffered, but only those who endured through the trials and tribulations would find success, and be honored. Grid did it—the guests here proved it.

The graduates looked at Grid with a hot gaze like they felt something.

‘Amazing...’

The internal situation of the empire that had changed after a civil war wasn’t so comfortable. In particular, the number of high ranking nobles had declined sharply and the responsibilities that had fallen on the shoulders of Immortal King Grenhal were greater than ever. He was busy every day. So why did you go to another kingdom to attend an event, in particular, a graduation ceremony? The reason was simple—he wanted to see with his own eyes the result of ‘equal education for all people.’

The result was amazing. According to Grenhal’s research, the students of the Overgeared Academy all had ordinary talents. From today on, there were many graduates who could be active in every field.

‘Talent doesn’t care about social standing.’

These were the words of successive emperors.

‘Passion rather than talent.’

This was the sentiment that Grenhal felt today. Grenhal realized the importance of equal learning opportunities. He realized that ‘people who want to learn’ can be reborn as talented people.

‘I must open academies for the people in all my territories.’

Of course, enormous resources would be consumed, but he shouldn’t be stingy.

“I have heard the reputation of Great Sage Sticks since I was a child. You are really deserving of this reputation. You must be proud of all the graduates.”

The students leaving the academy with their diplomas reminded him of birds leaving the nest. Sticks was blessing the graduates who will be spreading open their wings to live a new life. Then he smiled as he heard Grenhal’s words.

“What did I do? It was only possible due to the support of the kingdom.”

He was too humble.

Grenhal knew that Great Sage Sticks was a high elf who lived for a thousand years and thought Sticks would resemble the arrogant scholars. However, in reality, he had a gentle personality with a benevolent smile. It was really unexpected. This made Grenhal like him even more.

“Please visit the empire whenever you have time. It isn’t just the citizens of the empire. Her Majesty will also welcome your visit and treat you with the utmost courtesies.”

“Thank you very much for your words, but as a person of the Overgeared Kingdom, how can I go see the empress at will?”

“Haha...”

He didn’t expect Sticks to draw a line like this. Grenhal was surprised and fell silent when Sticks declared he was a person of the Overgeared Kingdom. A person many emperors wanted as a prime minister or a teacher—who would’ve expected Sticks to settle down in a kingdom when he used to refuse everyone in order to enjoy his freedom? It made Grid become a bigger giant in Grenhal’s perception.

“Sticks!” Grid interacted with the graduates and distinguished guests until they left. Then he rushed to find Sticks and asked frantically, “How did you do it?”

“What are you talking about?”

“The elemental department students. All of them are really amazing?”

The excited Grid’s eyes shone like lanterns. He put down the dignity he showed during the graduation ceremony and became purer. It was also a familiar appearance for Grenhal. Grenhal was very fond of Grid’s usual appearance.

“I feel the same way. They can enter active duty right now.”

Grenhal had also noticed it. He was amazed by the fact that all 31 graduates of the elemental department had developed great skills.

Sticks nodded. “That’s right. They signed a contract with an elemental and learned elemental magic. They are children who can play their role well. I’ve already asked them to be the foundation of the Overgeared Elemental Division.”

“Overgeared Elemental Division?”

“It is a name made for convenience. It was a name that was given in consideration of Your Majesty’s taste and usual naming. However, if you don’t like it then I can give it a new name.”

“There is no need to change it. I quite like it?”

Lauel was buzzing from where he was listening nearby, but Grid ignored it. Grid was very excited. There were only 31 graduates of the elemental department, but all of them were excellent enough for Talent Search to activate. It was amazing and he was curious about what magic Sticks had used to teach them so well.

“I don’t have any secrets. This is a natural result. In the first place, elemental magic can only be learned by those the elementals respond to. Of course, finding people like that isn’t easy. In the last seven years,

there have been tens of thousands of people who applied for the elemental department, but only 59 of them could see and feel the elementals. 31 of them graduated this year.”

“I see... it is a field where you have to be talented.”

The convinced Grid nodded and the silently listening Grenhal cautiously added, “Just because they react to an elemental doesn’t mean they can become an elemental magician. Even in the empire, we have been working tirelessly to raise elemental magicians, but we have only produced one or two every year. Your ability to teach is excellent.”

“As expected of Sticks...”

Grid once again realized the power of Sticks. He stared at Sticks with eyes full of friendliness and respect. Then he suddenly brought up something, “I want to share our thoughts, but I have a schedule. I will have to postpone it until next time. Sticks, please send Mercedes and I to Cokro Island.”

“.....”

Even today, Sticks was faithful to his role as a movement vehicle. Sticks consumed a lot of magic sending them to an island far away and the professors supported him as he gasped.

“Would you like me to show you to the warp gate we created this time?”

‘Warp gate?’

A magic tool that allowed a person to go to and from a specific area. He succeeded in making something that existed only in the ancient age of magic? Sticks saw Grenhal’s awe and shock, and waved his hand.

“Don’t be surprised. It is a test piece that only applies to some regions of the kingdom. The degree of completion is very low.”

“Isn’t the warp gate installed on Cokro Island working properly?”

Sticks first installed warp gates in places far from the kingdom, such as Cokro Island. Fortunately, this was successful. The professors were curious about when Sticks would announce his achievement to Grid. It was regrettable that it was kept a secret today.

Sticks just smiled lightly. If the commercialization of the warp gate was successful, he was afraid that Grid would no longer look for him. However, he couldn’t say this in front of these people. His life was saved thanks to Grid and he left the Behen Archipelago. He cherished and loved Grid more than the people who attended today’s event.

[Chapter 1316](#)

Was it an intended harmony? The white houses under the clear blue sky were reminiscent of clouds. He turned his gaze to the sea. It was hard to find the horizon. The clear sea reflected the blue sky.

“It is truly a beautiful place.”

Mercedes’ voice was somewhat excited as she admired the scenery of Cokro Island. The palm trees placed along each side of the small road shook their leaves like they were welcoming her.

“I like this place as well.”

Grid also liked the view of Cokro Island and its tranquil atmosphere. He felt better every time the wind swept past his cheeks.

‘It is good to set it as a no-tourism zone.’

Originally, Cokro was one of the most iconic attractions of the Overgeared Kingdom. However, tourists were forced to leave due to large and small problems. It was regretful about the tourism revenue, but what could he do? There were those who damaged nature, those who sneaked into the mines to steal resources, or those who were trying to completely revive Hell Gao. He was worried about the safety of the residents and the demise of the island. It was too far from the mainland so it was difficult for the Overgeared Kingdom to perfectly manage the security of Cokro Island.

‘Most of all, I want the residents to feel comfortable.’

The residents of Cokro Island were under great stress from the thousands of outsiders who visited every day and made a lot of noise. They deserved praise for their years of patience as they devoted themselves to the tourism business in order to enrich the kingdom.

‘It has been a long time since I’ve come here so I should give them a gift. I should make underwear.’

Wouldn’t they be pleased? It was underwear with a huge 20 defense and three extra stat points.

Grid’s sewing speed increased as he smiled. His appearance of making underwear while walking on the sparkling white sandy beach was very strange. When seen by strangers, it was a peculiar sight that would make them doubt their minds.

However, Mercedes thought it was good no matter what Grid did. She was happy that she was walking with Grid, just the two of them. Mercedes’ long hair that fell to her waist fluttered in the sea breeze. She was fixing her bangs when Grid handed her a gift.

“Take it. I think you’ll need it.”

It was a white hair tie. It was plain at first glance, but there were thousands of holes small enough for a needle to pass through. The horun thread was so thin that it was easy to break, thus nine pieces were twisted together to form one strand. Then it was made with a crochet hook.

It was a work that was difficult even for Grid, whose skill had reached advanced level four. Even though he steadily invested an hour or two into it every day, the total production period was two months. It was a delicate and beautiful hair tie. Of course, it was a different story when taking a closer look, and Mercedes was a person with better eyes than anyone else in the world. Her eyes trembled as she saw Grid’s efforts and devotion in the hair tie.

“Cherish... I will cherish it.”

“Don’t cherish it. I made it for you to wear while fighting.”

The infamous horun thread—it was so thin that it was easily broken or cut. Some people said that it was even worse than a spider web. The horun thread needed several strands to be twisted into one in order to increase the durability. It was just extremely difficult. No matter how high their sewing skills were,

even people with good dexterity could accidentally break the thread in the process of twisting them together.

However, it was durable enough to be used as a material for cloth if four or more pieces were twisted into one. If eight or more pieces were twisted into one then it would become solid enough to be used as a material for armor. Now Grid had succeeded in twisted nine pieces into one.

The hair tie that he gave Mercedes was stronger than it looked. There were also speed boost buffs attached due to the effects generated by the horun thread.

“Then I’ll tie up my hair every day.”

The smiling Mercedes pulled back her hair and tied it up. The blue hair and white hair tie were a beautiful harmony and it was within Grid’s expectations.

‘It is good that I dyed it white.’

It was originally a black hair tie. Then he saw that Mercedes’ hair had regained its original color from white and he quickly dyed it.

“It looks good.”

“.....”

Mercedes’s pale face turned red. Today was a special day for her. She had lived as a knight all her life, but this was the first time she received a gift that wasn’t a sword or a shield.

“Were all the fields cleared?”

Cokro Island had an absolute lack of arable land. It was a small island and more than half of the area was covered by mountains. The food that the inhabitants of Cokro Island could provide for themselves were minimal. They had to sell minerals to the merchants on the mainland and use the money to buy food. Now even that small amount of farmland was gone. It was because the area had to be cleared to create a forest.

‘I will have to ask Rabbit to support it well.’

Piario, who carefully planted the golden walnut seedlings obtained from the Xing Kingdom, noticed Grid’s presence and approached.

“Welcome, Your Majesty.”

Piario was sweaty from working and he shone brighter than anyone else. There were no worries on his face and he was full of smiles. Grid brushed the dirt off Piario’s clothes and anxiously asked him, “Is it hard to work all by yourself?”

Piario didn’t bring a single farmer with him on this mission. He was clearing the field and planting the seedlings all by himself. It was all in order to create a perfect forest. The golden walnut trees were more sensitive than any other plant. Piario decided that in order to plant and care for the golden walnut trees

well, he needed to do everything by himself. He would have to struggle alone in such a remote place for several months. Wouldn't it be too lonely and difficult?

It happened as Grid was worrying about this...

"Honey~~! Take a break and eat!!"

From a distance, someone appeared and waved. Taking a closer look, it was Beniyaru.

"...You won't be lonely."

He was with his wife. It was Grid who smiled with peace of mind.

"Take a break from this Hell Gao raid?"

There were a total of five raid teams in the Overgeared Guild. They were teams led by the original members of the Overgeared Guild and took on the role of handling boss monsters that appeared regularly all over the continent to secure wealth and goods.

"Yes, King Grid said he would raid Hell Gao himself since he is visiting Cokro Island."

"Who is with him?"

"Sir Mercedes."

"Just Mercedes?"

"Yes."

"It is a bit tight..."

Pon, the leader of the first team, was worried. The final boss of Cokro Island's dungeon, Hell Gao—he might've been killed by Grid in the past, but the guy who regularly respawned was much stronger than he had been in the past. It was said that he lost his body and most of his power was sealed by the former Sword Saint Muller, but he was still the 9th great demon.

It was a setting where he gradually regained his sealed power as time passed. In the past, he had four fire stones and now he had six. Every time a fire stone was added, his level rose by a huge 150 levels. The current Hell Gao was strong enough that there were a lot of sacrifices in the first raid team, which had the highest power among the raid teams.

"Does he want to dig out fire stones?"

The fire stones created with Hell Gao's emergence were the source of Hell Gao's power and his weakness. Every time a fire stone was collected, Hell Gao's stats dropped significantly. The reason why Grid and Peak Sword were able to raid Hell Gao in their low level days was because they collected two fire stones.

However, according to the findings of team one, every time a fire stone was collected, Hell Gao didn't just weaken, the item drop rate also decreased. This meant there was no point in doing a raid by collecting the fire stones.

“I should go and support them.”

Pon rose from his seat. It wasn't that he didn't believe in the skills of Grid and Mercedes. He had witnessed Grid smashing the half gods. Furthermore, Mercedes was a powerhouse in the same class or above Grid.

However, Hell Gao was a named boss. He was different from the NPC yangbans and boasted overwhelming vitality and endurance. It was a matter of compatible natures. In principle, it was impossible for players and NPCs to deal with the current Hell Gao.

Pon was about to leave when Lael suddenly questioned him, “Poin, have you read the news.”

“What news?”

“Sir Mercedes has written a new chivalric code.”

“Of course I know. I was delighted to hear the news.”

The chivalric code was a unique characteristic of the legendary knight. In a word, it was a cheat-class ability where stats rose and new skills or traits would blossom every time she wrote a chivalric code.

“However, it isn't enough.”

Hell Gao had become stronger and he had the skill to inflict ‘fatal injuries to five targets.’ It was true damage that ignored defense and combined with the very powerful skill that caused an unconditional critical hit, even Toban had no luck and died in one shot.

The designated target was random, but it made certain to hit the target. This meant that Grid and Mercedes had to match their skills together if they wanted to raid Hell Gao.

“I have to fill up the numbers. That way, the raid will be possible. Additionally, the current timing is bad.”

Pon's expression became darker. It was speculated that Hell Gao absorbed a large amount of magic power and regained some of his sealed power every time he appeared in the human world. Every time a certain amount of magic power was recovered, a new fire stone was added and a greater power was displayed. However, it was currently about the time for a new fire stone to be added.

“Maybe seven fire stones will appear this time. Then his level would be higher by 150.”

It wasn't just a problem of level and stat gains. New skills were created and there would be variations to his patterns.

‘In that case, the odds are small even if all of the first team goes as support.’

Of course, the fire stones could be collected. Then Grid and Mercedes would succeed in the raid. Still, how could it be easy to collect fire stones in front of the more powerful Hell Gao? Furthermore, collecting fire stones would make the value of the raid decline.

Lael called out to the hurrying Pon, “Just watch.”

Pon frowned. “Just watch even though I know it will be dangerous?”

“His Majesty has been reading the raid team’s reports. He knows that Hell Gao is different from before, yet he came out with confidence.”

“He might not have considered the seventh fire stone. It was just a speculation in the report.”

“Sir Mercedes has written a new chivalric code.”

“That isn’t enough.”

“Nevertheless, she said she would lose if she faced the current King Grid.”

“...What?”

“Pon, the king you remember is different from the current king. In this short time, His Majesty has advanced even further. Believe in and wait for His Majesty’s judgment.”

At the same time, Cokro Island’s dungeon...

“This is really...”

It was after Grid finished looking at the golden walnut forest. Grid froze as he went to the dungeon with Mercedes to experience the stronger Hell Gao. Seven fire stones flashed and the pressure Hell Gao gave off was terrifying. It might be a bit exaggerated, but there seemed to be no big difference with the 13th ranked great demon, Beleth.

‘I heard that Hell Gao doesn’t have a body so he robs the flesh of demonkin wandering through hell to come to the human world.’

He showed this much pressure while borrowing the body of a demonkin? It wasn’t even his real body? It seemed that single digit great demons were really creatures in a different dimension. He judged that this couldn’t be left alone.

‘It seems appropriate to call Sehee for the next raid when an eighth fire stone is added.’

It was right that he should be permanently destroyed. This wasn’t a creature that the current humanity could afford to face.

Grid pulled out his weapon after making a judgment and was reminded of Kraugel.

‘What is the Sword Saint of the present day doing?’

Grid hadn’t seen him in a long time. As always, he would be training in remote areas Grid hadn’t been to yet. How far had he narrowed the gap with the previous Sword Saint? The expectant Grid never dreamt that Kraugel was being beaten up by a yangban who hadn’t even taken off her gat.

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The sword that was aiming at the area between his eyebrows suddenly bent like a sickle and cut at his collarbone. He was a bit flustered, but Kraugel calmly blocked it with his sheath. He had expected an anomalous attack from the time he saw the shape of the soft sword, so it was easy to respond.

The soft sword that was blocked by the sheath bounced back using its elasticity. Kraugel drew his sword. At the same time, he turned the sheath around, held it in the reverse direction, and pushed it.

“...Oh my?”

The eyes of the yangban, Yeum, widened. It was because her sword was attached to the human’s sheath. She was in a hurry to retrieve her sword when Kraugel’s sword cut her waist. It was an attack that dug deeply, but Kraugel’s expression wasn’t very good.

‘A basic attack is pointless.’

A basic attack didn’t deal much damage. He gauged Yeum’s defense and kicked up. Jainmori—it was a kick that could be used even at a close range. It made the concept of space meaningless and exerted a chasing effect.

Yeum was pushed back several meters and was ready to chase after him immediately. Through the dust, she could see the back of the human that was running far away. Usually, a person would think they had missed the opponent. However, Yeum was a yangban. In front of her, a half-god, the concept of distance had little significance.

“Shunpo.”

Yeum’s body teleported dozens of meters ahead. She spread out the capturing technique and snatched at the human’s robes. Then a sharp blade swept over Yeum’s white hands like a storm. It was the manifestation of Formless Will.

‘He has awakened the ‘heart.’”

The vast majority of the yangbans didn’t understand the concept of Formless Will. For them, Formless Will was just an innate strength. Even Garam recognized Formless Will as a power of the yangbans. However, Yeum had an accurate understanding of the ‘heart’ and Formless Will. This was the result of studying martial arts beside Mir without being complacent about her strength.

Tong!Tong tong tong tong tong!

Yeum matched it. She responded to Kraugel’s Formless Will with her own Formless Will. The invisible blow collided with the invisible sword energy and a storm erupted. Meanwhile, the battle between Kraugel and Yeum continued. Yeum’s techniques encompassed fists, angled attacks, the palm, and the sword, and they were varied and complex. Her attacks that left behind afterimages were as flashy as the tail of a peacock and Kraugel was desperate to stop them. Yes, he somehow blocked them.

Yeum greatly admired it. The opponent was an ordinary human. He hadn’t even accumulated transcendence. However, his heart and his techniques were unusual. Among them, his swordsmanship was particularly remarkable.

‘The swordsmanship is similar to Mir’s... no, maybe it is a bit better.’

This was a human who used swordsmanship comparable to Mir, the strongest of the yangbans. If he accumulated transcendence and completed his body, wouldn’t he far transcend the category of a human?

“It’s great.”

Yeum was blocked by the sword curtain used by the human being and she was forced to step back. She was filled with pure curiosity and questioned the human who was regaining his breath, “You aren’t a transcendent. How are you distinguishing between my various attacks? It isn’t possible just because you have good eyes.”

“.....”

Kraugel didn’t answer. He had no reason to explain that he was predicting and responding to attacks by reading the fine movements of her muscles, the direction of her eyes, and the habits that the other person was unaware of.

‘The situation is bad.’

Kraugel had only been in Kaya for two days and he already met with a yangban. It was too much to dismiss it as bad luck.

‘Is it because I had a conversation with the residents to gather information?’

The waterfall that was said to contain Muller’s secret technique—the only clue was that it was ‘a place where there is no sunlight,’ so Kraugel interacted with the residents to gather information. Then he stepped back and encountered the yangban in front of him. The possibility that it was a simple coincidence was very low.

‘I was too short-sighted.’

The yangbans lost the red phoenix and black tortoise to an outsider (Grid) and their colleagues were also killed. Even the arrogant ones would’ve been alarmed. It was clear they would thoroughly defend the blue dragon and the white tiger. It was enough to keep an eye on the people of the Kaya Kingdom and the Pa Kingdom.

‘I should give up on communicating with the NPCs here.’

He had to work thoroughly alone and in secret. The difficulty of the quest surged, but Kraugel didn’t hesitate. He had a lot of experience in uncovering and solving labyrinths alone. The biggest problem right now was how to get rid of the yangban in front of him. However, could he get rid of her? The level of the other person was too high.

Yeum. She had a smiling face and soft attitude, but there was no mercy in her hands. She knew how to objectively analyze the enemy. She was never arrogant and careless, unlike other yangbans. Her skills were unsurprisingly excellent.

‘I didn’t know that the skills of a yangban would be this high.’

In the past, Kraugel had warned Grid of the dangers of the yangbans.

At that time, he didn’t know there was a gap between the yangbans. He took the three yangbans he saw in Pangea, including Garam, as the standard for the yangbans. That wasn’t the case anymore. In the past few years, he had been collecting information about the yangbans through many quests.

Only the seven yangbans who had passed Chiyou's Test with high grades could take off their gats. They were the truly strong ones. Yet Yeum possessed higher than expected skills despite wearing a gat. Even a yangban wearing a gat was this strong...

Kraugel couldn't help thinking of Grid who had killed several yangbans.

'The gap has widened further.'

Kraugel's heart jumped when he realized the difference in skill with Grid. His blood boiled as he recalled the goal of competing against Grid again. However, he suppressed it. It wasn't time yet. He would end up learning Muller's secret techniques if he was obsessed with winning against Grid.

'Then I am bound to lose.'

He absolutely refused to lose while using someone else's power. He didn't want to disappoint Grid. He realized it for certain when he saw that Grid didn't participate in last year's National Competition. It was a fact that a rematch with Grid shouldn't be set as a short-term goal. The current him didn't meet Grid's expectations.

'...The game is fun. Exciting. Long.'

Kraugel tried to control his mind by repeating his positive thoughts. Then Yeum spoke to Kraugel, "You seem to have many thoughts. Don't try to understand the situation. If you keep thinking about why I attacked you or why you can't beat me, then you won't understand until the very end."

"I don't care."

It was Kraugel who felt insignificant when Yeum intervened as he was thinking about Grid. Yeum's face went blank for a moment, but she soon laughed. "You are so terrified that you've lost your mind."

Yeum infused energy into her soft sword. The anomaly of the soft sword wasn't working so she determined it was better to suppress the opponent with a strong sword. "The people above are a bit sensitive these days. It is forbidden to have outsiders active here, so please die."

'There is no retreat.'

It was easy to understand why Yeum chose to fight here despite the narrowness. In the first place, Shunpo was a problem. It was hard to get free. Kraugel looked around again and concluded that retreat was impossible. Therefore, he took a posture.

'I wonder if I can decrease her blood below half. I have to confirm it now that things are like this.'

".....?!"

"Space Sword."

The Sword Saint's swordsmanship split apart the mountain and the half-god paid homage to his blow. Each time their swords collided, birds flew from the turbulent forest and covered the sky with black.

[Hell Gao, the master of Hellfire has appeared.]

[Hell Gao's roar has applied fear, confusion, and debilitating effects.]

[You have resisted.]

[Hell Gao's fire has reduced fire resistance by 50%.]

[You have resisted.]

[Hell Gao, who has restored a lot of magic power, has used his strength. A river of hellfire is summoned in the area.]

[The health recovery effect is reduced by half due to the influence of the hellfire river and continuous burn damage is received.]

[You have resisted.]

[Hell Gao's stats will rise significantly as the hellfire river flows.]

[Fire pillars have risen and attacked you.]

The moment Hell Gao appeared, a river of fire was also created in the dungeon.

".....!"

Pillars of fire rose from the fire stones and struck at Grid and Mercedes. The fire stones were scattered in so many different locations so it felt like the fire was coming from all directions. Mercedes shouted to Grid, who couldn't easily find a path of retreat, "Come over here!"

".....?!"

Mercedes was standing still and shouting. Grid had no way of knowing what her intentions were, but he trusted her unconditionally. He rushed forward. Pillars of fire burned the dungeon. However, there were some areas that weren't affected by the flames, one of which was the area where Grid and Mercedes were standing.

"Wow."

Blue hair swept over the face of the admiring Grid. Mercedes moved like a flash and raised a shield into the air.

Meteor Strike—it was thought to be one of the strongest spells until Grid witnessed Braham's Meteor, and it fell toward every point where the fire pillars didn't reach. Mercedes' shield now blocked one of them.

Grid clicked his tongue. 'Is this the power of Keen Insight?'

She could grasp and target the boss' attack patterns in an instant. It was truly a powerful force to watch out for. Mercedes spoke to Grid, who was looking at her like she was beautiful, "Don't fall into the river."

"Yes."

His transcendent senses were also sending him warnings. He was able to resist the burn damage and recovery reduction effect caused by the 'heat' of the hellfire river. However, once his body directly touched the hellfire river, his flesh and bones would melt.

'Once Hell Gao fully recovers, will he launch powerful flames like that river?'

A chill went down Grid's spine as he was reminded that Hell Gao's nickname was 'master of hellfire.'

"Who are you?"

Beyond the flames, Hell Gao's voice could be heard.

"What's the matter?"

Hell Gao came in and out of here like it was his own house, and he became accustomed to conversations with human beings. He was more talkative than when he fought against Grid a few years ago. He even sensed something strange and immediately asked questions.

"You guys... are you legends of the past generation?"

Hell Gao had regained a considerable amount of power after suffering the humiliation of being beaten by humans several times. The physical body might only be borrowed from a demonkin, but his magic power had reached almost half of when he was in his prime.

Hell Gao was planning to hold a killing celebration this time. He was convinced that the humans who humiliated him for years would never be able to handle his present self. Then what was this? What was the identity of these two humans who possessed a strength that modern humans couldn't show?

Hell Gao was perplexed only to suddenly meet Grid's gaze. He kept his mouth shut for a moment before shouting. "You! You are the guy from that time!"

[Hell Gao, the master of Hellfire, recognizes you.]

[The title 'Recognition of the 9th Great Demon' has been acquired.]

[Recognition of the 9th Great Demon]

[A celebrity in hell.

The hell reputation system is activated.

The more you build your reputation, the less you will be penalized in hell.]

[You have defeated many great demons.]

[5,000 reputation points have been acquired through the influence of the magnificent achievements.]

[The penalties in hell are reduced by 10%.]

"It is nice to see you giving me a gift."

This was a great profit. Activities in hell could be guaranteed, and hell was arguably Satisfy's best hunting ground. Hell Gao stared blankly at Grid's genuine joy and burst out laughing. "Kukuk!Kuhahahat!

Right! I am glad! Really glad!! I have always dreamed of getting revenge on you! God Yatan finally listened to my wishes!!"

The experience of defeat in a fight against 'a miner and a swordsman,' not the Sword Saint, was the greatest shame of Hell Gao's life. The reason Hell Gao diligently kept coming to the human world over the past few years was actually because he wanted to get revenge.

Today, the opportunity finally came. Hell Gao was very happy.

"You are worthy of being the human who defeated me. You have become stronger! It will be worth taking you down! Kuhahahat!"

"...You have become very chatty."

Among all the great demons Grid had met, Hell Gao gave off the lightest feeling. However, the power he radiated was great. Grid didn't release his tension even if it wasn't for the warnings from his transcendent senses.

"Let's go, Mercedes."

"I will follow you."

"...Can you take the lead?"

Grid thoroughly relied on Mercedes after witnessing the true value of Keen Insight. It was the first time that he recognized those with finite lives as 'people to depend on' rather than a 'person to be protected.'

[Overgeared King Grid is writing the eighth epic.]

[The beginning of the narrative comes from the confrontation with the great evil roaring beyond the soaring flames.]

"Gladly," Mercedes replied.

[His knight takes the lead in the furnace filled with the demonic desires.]

[One step. Enduring the flames of hell.]

[Two steps. The back she showed as she confronted the great evil with devotion shared the burdens he had been carrying so far.]

Exactly 15 days left until the submission date for the Overgeared event ends! There still aren't as many entries as last year's competition so I hope you are all working on your submissions within the last two weeks! Remember, multiple cash prizes to be won!

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[The subject is too busy and can't check their whisper.]

There was only one case where the whisper couldn't be transmitted due to such a reason. It was when the target was raiding a dungeon boss.

“Shit, it’s already started.”

Lael had asked him to trust Grid, but Pon felt uneasy. Pon naturally believed in Grid’s skills. Were there any Overgeared members who doubted that Grid was the strongest? It was just that the timing this time was too bad. Grid wouldn’t be able to handle Hell Gao if he had obtained his seventh fire stone.

‘It is hard even if he is stronger than Mercedes. It is impossible for two people to raid the boss based on the pattern.’

Pon wanted to give Grid some advice, but became nervous when he couldn’t even send a whisper. Lael caught up to him as he was hurrying away. “Are you going to support?”

“I have to go. I can’t let Grid and Mercedes die.”

The pillars of fire that were summoned the moment Hell Gao appeared grew stronger as the number of fire stones increased. The moment six fire stones appeared, the damage range was widened to the point where the entire dungeon would burn.

Additionally, the summoning position of the pillars of fire was random every time. The only way to find the places the pillars of fire didn’t damage was purely by luck. Then if they avoided a pillar of fire, they were exposed to the ‘balls of fire’ falling from the sky. It was inevitable to take some damage from the moment Hell Gao appeared.

‘Of course, Grid and Mercedes will resist the debuff that lowers fire resistance, but they will still be injured.’

It was very painful even if the fire resistance was 100%. Just because attribute resistance was 100% didn’t mean that no attribute damage was received. This was because all attribute attacks had basic damage. The damage could be kept balanced with defense and resistance, but Hell Gao’s fire attack power was truly unstoppable. It might be blocked by resistance and reduced by damage and resistance, but the damage was still beyond imagination.

Additionally, all of Hell Gao’s attacks had a certain amount of true damage applied. It completely ignored defense and resistance.

‘You will go straight to hell the moment you start taking damage from Hell Gao.’

Hell Gao’s scariest attack pattern was the tentacle of magic power that occurred when more than half of the people participating in the raid lost a certain amount of health. It was a skill that dealt 100% of their true damage to five targets and unconditionally inflicted a critical hit.

‘The skill that triggers every time 20% of our health is reduced is the most dangerous.’ Therefore, it was important to keep their health.

Once health started being lost, a vicious cycle started repeating itself. The damage that occurred when Hell Gao first appeared had to be recovered immediately to withstand the pattern. Potions alone had their limits. The Hell Gao raid required a healer or a buffer.

It happened when Pon started gathering team one...

[Overgeared King Grid is writing the eighth epic.]

An epic was triggered. The contents of the epic were also very serious. It wasn't Grid but Grid's knight. It described Mercedes confronting the flames of hell. It wrote that she shared the burdens that Grid had been carrying alone so far. Grid was dependent on Mercedes when he valued the lives of NPCs a hundred or thousand times more than his own? It was Mercedes who was like a precious object that couldn't be exchanged for anything...

It was proof that Grid was being overwhelmed.

"Che!"

In the middle of the corridor, Pon summoned a white horse. Lauel shouted as Pon threw a spear, broke the window, and mounted the horse, "Go to Sticks. He will guide you to the warpgate."

The epic was Grid's footsteps. It focused on the person himself rather than his feats. This time, the system focused on the changes in Grid who started relying on his colleagues. He became the light guiding humanity because he knew his own limitations. Nevertheless, he still saw others as precarious.

Grid, who had always been fighting alone, finally trusted others. It was a scene that proved the development of humanity. It was a moment that hinted at a generational change. It was right to write it as a narrative that would become a myth.

Mercedes stepped forward with the shield over her head and blocked the flames pouring down like rain. Grid followed behind her.

[Every time he followed in his knight's footsteps, the responsibility that oppressed him was washed away layer by layer.]

"This way!"

[It was with the courage to face all types of injustices and threats to lead the way.]

"The river in this direction is fake."

[A resolution to protect everyone.]

"Now!"

[A foolish obstinacy and arrogance.]

"Ridiculous guys!"

[He realized it under the protection of the shield.]

"Sky."

[The knight's shield that defeated the flames of hell accelerated his sword.]

"Kuuack! River, flood!"

[The new epic effect has increased damage by 10% during party play.]

"Knight's Divine Protection."

[The knight's gaze looked at places he couldn't see and protected his back.]

"What...?! Your eyes are impossible!"

[The new epic effect has increased defense by 10% during party play.]

"Shunpo."

"Silver Wings."

[A branch that dreams of being a tree to support the world.]

[His efforts and struggles to lead humanity as a lantern.]

"Transcended Linked Kill Wave Pinnacle."

"Galaxy Wave."

[The distinction between the previous generation and the present is removed.]

"You guys...! Le...gends! Kuaaack!"

[Overgeared King Grid has completed the eighth page of the epic!]

[Due to the influence of the epic, the stats of all the legends of this age are slightly increased.]

[The eighth page of the epic has been completed.]

[Your status has risen by one level as a reward for completing the epic.]

[Resistance to skill damage has slightly increased.]

[Resistance to weapon damage has slightly increased.]

[Skin of Transcendence has become even harder.]

[The title 'Protagonist of the Legend' has been created.]

[Your knight 'Mercedes' is deifying you.]

[Your Deity stat has increased by 1.]

[Skin of Transcendence Lv. 2]

[Passive

* There is a certain chance of resisting physical damage below 3,000.

The skin of a transcendent is very tough and hard.

It is a process of peeking into the domain of imperviousness to the sword.]

[Protagonist of the Legend]

[The protagonist who leads other legends.

You will gain more experience than your party members when hunting in a party with legendary classes.

There is a chance of acquiring better items than your party members when hunting in a party with legendary classes.]

‘Good.’

The epic was accompanied by great growth. His defense and damage was increased during party hunting and his resistance to skill damage and weapon damage increased. Additionally, Skin of Transcendence was strengthened and he obtained a title. He was so happy that he wanted to cheer.

Unfortunately, he couldn’t afford to cheer.

“Your Majesty!”

“Shunpo!”

The momentum of the flames that Hell Gao wore on his body became much greater. Under Grid and Mercedes’ onslaught, his health was decreased and he entered the second phase. Hell Gao’s eyes were burning red as he gazed at Grid and Mercedes, who were fleeing like rats. “I thought all humans of the present day are trash. It is shocking.”

This was bad. Looking at his manner of speaking, the guy who had just gone berserk had regained his composure. This meant his attack accuracy had returned to a normal level.

“You wouldn’t be inferior even if you were living in the same era as Muller.”

How many people in the world had been praised by a great demon? Hell Gao highly praised Grid and Mercedes, and he even mentioned Muller who sealed him. He was at ease. Hell Gao rotated the staff he had been holding as an ornament and created dozens of reverse pentagrams around him.

“However, you are still young. Muller was in his later years when he sealed me.”

The 9th great demon, Hell Gao, was a powerful presence in the worldview, but he was surprisingly used to a sense of helplessness. It was because he experienced a sword that couldn’t be broken, a sword that couldn’t be blocked, a sword that couldn’t be avoided. This was why he quickly regained his cool despite Mercedes’ use of Keen Insight.

For the last hundreds of years, he wandered hell in a spirit form and repeatedly thought about it—how could he combat such irrationality? The answer he found was surprisingly simple. It was to face irrationality with more irrationality. Flames intersected over dozens of inverted pentagrams and then blazed.

“It is still an incomplete magic, but can you afford to handle it when you, too, are incomplete?”

“.....!”

This was magic that was created to kill Muller. Mercedes glimpsed the identity of the magic circle with Keen Insight and pushed Grid away.

“Run away!”

“What?”

Grid hadn't taken a proper hit since entering phase two. It was due to his high agility that allowed him to react as soon as Mercedes' Keen Insight predicted it. Mercedes suffered damage, but it was inevitable because she was in the tanker's position. Even so, she only suffered minor injuries. Neither of them had gone below 90% of their health. It was fine like this, yet Mercedes was telling him to run away?

'What is that magic?

33 magic circles that repeatedly generated dark flames and condensed them. It seemed that it could carry out a bombardment that broke through 'all defense.' Grid suggested, "If the two of us block it together..."

"It is impossible. He has infinitely overlapped guidance magic with acceleration magic."

"What...?!"

It was the moment when Grid stiffened...

"This should be enough to deal with you."

There was a big smile on the goat head. Then there was silence as if someone had pressed the mute button. The flames burning in the magic circles suddenly disappeared.

".....!"

Mercedes was already moving. She tried to hug Grid as she opened her mouth to say some final words. Her large shield was only covering Grid's body. She even used her body as a shield as she sacrificed herself for Grid. In the world that had stopped—

[There are no attacks that you won't recognize.]

Every one of Grid's senses stood up. The 'world that a transcendent sees' unfolded before his eyes. He could see the 33 sparks that were hidden. They were approaching him and Mercedes fiercely. He could see how each and every one of Mercedes' hair was moving. Her face was sad like she was just about to burst into tears.

'It's fine.'

Just as you are protecting me, it is natural for me to protect you.

The back of Grid's hand wiped at Mercedes' eyes.

"Flower Revolve."

All the 33 sparks filled Grid's field of view and petals of sword energy were scattered. In Mercedes' vision, it was Grid's cloak passing by instead of Grid. Then Hell Gao was bombarded by his own magic.

".....!!"

".....?"

Mercedes and the great demon didn't know what Grid had done and their astonished gazes met. Hell Gao fell steadily and saw the blue petals fluttering in the flames. Every petal reflected the nightmare from hundreds of years ago.

[Chapter 1319](#)

It would be a battle of endurance. Grid predicted that it would take at least an hour to raid Hell Gao. First of all, Hell Gao's attack pattern was too difficult. It was the first time he had experienced such a diverse, extensive, and irregular pattern. It was possible to cope by maintaining the Transcend state as much as possible to freely use Shunpo, but that meant the overconsumption of stamina. It would only lead to self-destruction.

'Stamina is always a problem.'

Attack power and survivability could be covered with items. The problem was that stamina was different. Stamina often held him back, so he gradually felt irritable. In the end, Grid decided it was best to rely on Mercedes' Keen Insight. However, following Mercedes' order led him to moving one step behind Mercedes and it was difficult to find a chance to strike compared to fighting on his own.

Furthermore, his ultimate skills like Sky and the five fusion sword dances struck, but didn't exert as much power as he thought. Hell Gao's abilities were above Grid's even though he lost his body, borrowed the body of a demonic creature, and hadn't fully recovered his magic power. This was the majestic power of a single digit great demon.

'...I thought I would die first.'

Grid hadn't expected this type of development. Hell Gao's ultimate attack that was used the moment he entered phase two ended up making the raid easier. Hell Gao had all 33 of his spells returned to him and his health gauge quickly reached the bottom. The combination of a transcendent person who recognized all attacks and Flower Revolve that reflected all attacks in the field of view could be described as the realm of art.

"Kukuk...! Kukukuk!!"

Was it because the shock was too big? Hell Gao became bloody and suddenly burst out laughing. Hell Gao's remaining health was less than three-tenths. It was so small that it wouldn't be strange if he entered the final phase.

Yes, the raid wasn't over yet. The real battle was starting from now on. Grid and Mercedes were tense and tightened their grips on their weapons. Meanwhile, Hell Gao lay there and watched the blue petals.

"What a trivial thing." Hell Gao wasn't talking to the humans. The words were for the owner of the body that he had borrowed for a while.

".....!"

".....!"

Grid and Mercedes were stunned. It was because Hell Gao talked to himself and then dug at his own eyes with a sharp hand. The red, bloodshot eyeballs were pulled out and rolled around in his hand.

“It is useless to have eyes that can’t even see the speed of the magic that I shot.”

Hell Gao’s body was engulfed in flames that moved like living creatures as his body slowly rose and stood upright. He tightly grasped the eyes he pulled out and caused them to burst. Then he stood still and started to breathe deeply.

“Sigh.”

Hwaruk!

“Sigh.”

Hwaruruk.

Every time Hell Gao took a breath, the burning fire around his body gradually subsided. He killed the pressure that seemed like it would burn the whole world, and became smaller and quieter. Then he disappeared completely.

“Haaaah...”

In the end, black smoke emerged from Hell Gao’s mouth and nose as he let out a breath. His face, chest, neck, back, shoulders, arms, pelvis, and legs—Hell Gao’s shell fell apart. The exposed flesh burned red like lava while the wriggling blood vessels were burning black.

This was Hell Gao’s magic—fire itself. Hell Gao absorbed it into his body and the demonic creature’s body started collapsing because it couldn’t withstand the heat. It was the start of the final phase.

“”Human.””

Hell Gao’s vocal cords were melted and his voice became bizarre. It was torn and submerged to the point where it was hard to understand.

“”Yes, your name. What, is it?””

Grid barely recognized the words and answered, “Grid, Overgeared King Grid.”

“”I will remember.””

The first human since Muller who has given me such a great sense of helplessness.

Hell Gao was unable to say the following words. It was because his vocal cords had completely melted and disappeared. He was only breathing like a beast.

“He used magic power to temporarily maximize his physical and sensory functions.” Mercedes watched Hell Gao’s changes closely and stepped forward. “I’ll fight to buy time while Your Majesty is recovering.”

Mercedes knew that Grid was quite exhausted. It wasn’t strange to feel tired after using Shunpo several times and then entering the transcendent realm. It was the aftermath of awakening concentration and senses so great that the world seemed to be in slow motion. Didn’t he lose his breath after exchanging a few seconds of attacks and defenses with the grandmaster?

“No, we will fight together.”

Grid moved his heavy legs and stood beside Mercedes.

“In any case, isn’t he going to die soon?”

From the moment he entered the final phase, Hell Gao’s health gauge started to decrease by itself. The body that Hell Gao borrowed couldn’t handle Hell Gao’s magic power and was dying. The dying flash—the current Hell Gao was like a candle blazing at the end.

He showed a desire to bring the humans who drove him to this point down to hell with him. It was impossible for Mercedes to deal with this guy alone.

“Yes.” Mercedes didn’t continue to insist. She knew that they had a better chance of surviving together than if she struggled alone.

“Hell Gao is going to try and handle this quickly.”

Originally, they should delay time and persist. However, was it really possible? Hell Gao had increased his physical ability to the extreme so his movements...

“.....!”

The speed was like lightning. Mercedes read Hell Gao’s intentions and path with Keen Insight, but she couldn’t respond perfectly. In an instant, Hell Gao narrowed the distance and kicked. This caused Mercedes’ body to fly through the air. The side of her armor dented as she coughed up blood.

Grrr...

Beast-like breathing rang in Mercedes’ ears. Hell Gao followed after her, but Mercedes’ shield was already protecting her heart. This was evidence that she read and responded to the situation in advance. If she had blocked Hell Gao’s kick with her shield then her heart would’ve been exposed to the subsequent attack. The moment Hell Gao’s fist collided with Mercedes’ shield, a huge wave of energy shook the dungeon.

“I am also aiming for a quick fight.”

The Enlightenment Sword and the Fire Dragon Sword—Grid merged the two swords into one and cut at Hell Gao’s back with Pinnacle. Then Hell Gao’s kick struck Grid’s abdomen. Hell Gao was wary of Grid’s transcendence and raised his senses to the extreme. It was impossible that he couldn’t respond to Grid’s current speed.

He just didn’t avoid it. He just attacked instead of defending. It was a mistake. The thing that Grid lacked was endurance, not health. Rather, he was grateful for Hell Gao’s response.

“Storm of the Fire God.”

Divine flames overflowed from Grid.

Hell Gao was the master of hellfire, so Grid wasn’t sure if Storm of the Fire God would affect Hell Gao. However, the use of Storm of the Fire God wasn’t just limited to suppressing the enemy. It had the beneficial effect of healing the user by 20%.

Would enemies who ran into each other on a single person wooden bridge fight like this?

Grid's sword and armor constantly collided with Hell Gao's body that was enhanced with magic power. The two of them didn't try to avoid or block each other's attacks. They just cut at each other's flesh and bones to defeat the opponent in front of them.

Originally, Hell Gao should have the overwhelming advantage. Boss monsters, especially named bosses, had health and endurance that players couldn't handle. If a boss monster and player struggled in a battle of consumption, then it was normal for players to lose first.

A lunatic who fought against boss monsters in this way didn't exist in the world. Yet the positions of Grid and Hell Gao were completely reversed. Hell Gao was dying quickly without recovering. Meanwhile—

[Braham's Shield has wrapped around your body. The shield has absorbed 25,673 damage. An additional 500 defense is obtained while the shield is retained.]

[Braham's Shield has wrapped around your body. The shield has absorbed 25,673 damage. An additional 500 defense is obtained while the shield is retained.]

[Braham's Shield has wrapped around...]

.....

...

The health-consuming rate was relatively slow since Grid used the fusion sword dances and single sword dances Wave and Revolve with Braham's Shield attached every time the cooldown was over. The shield also continued to be triggered due to God's Command.

Of course, it was relatively slow. Braham's Shield couldn't last long in front of Hell Gao's amazing attack power that dealt at least 10,000 damage with every hit. But—

"Cray's Power."

Grid had the strongest vampire skill that absorbed 100% damage dealt and turned it into health. The cooldown was five minutes, but it was enough to reverse the situation with one use. Additionally, the lifesteal function of Elfin Stone's Ring was added so Grid's health recovery was dazzling. Storm of the Fire God maximized the power of the vampires.

However...

"Cough!"

Grid's sword dances, Cray's Power, and Elfin Stone's Ring were all skills and items with a cooldown time. Unlike Katz's lifesteal, there were gaps in Grid's lifesteal. Hell Gao noticed it from a certain moment and accurately grasped this gap.

"Che!"

It was a critical injury at a time when Grid's lifesteal was blocked. Grid gritted his teeth at the blood and Hell Gao finally smiled. It was at this moment...

[A great king puts his safety first.]

[The title of 'The First King' has created a shield equal to the health lost in the last minute.]

Grid was once again surrounded by a new shield.

"" ""

At this time, Hell Gao frowned. If his eyes were normal then he would be looking at Grid with disgust. It was like looking at a cockroach, not a human being.

"Haap!"

Mercedes' performance was also brilliant. As Grid endured, endured, and endured, she constantly attacked Hell Gao's vital spots and accelerated the consumption of health. She even blocked several of Hell Gao's attacks by setting up her shield in exquisitely placed locations. If it wasn't for her, Grid's health would've decreased twice as fast.

"" ""

Before they knew it, Hell Gao's health was reduced to one-tenth. Surprisingly, Hell Gao wasn't nervous. It was because he knew clearly that he would die together with Grid. The moment Hell Gao abandoned his body and his eyes, his sharp senses allowed him to detect that Grid's breathing had reached its limit.

It was the same for Mercedes. Her Keen Insight read that Grid would soon stop moving.

'Please...! Please!'

The sweat-drenched Mercedes started to speed up. Her desire to protect Grid was sharpening the tip of her sword. Unfortunately, her attack power was limited. The advantage of a knight was that it could play all roles, but the weak point was that it couldn't reach the peak. Her swordsmanship was unfortunately lacking in power and couldn't inflict a fatal injury on Hell Gao. Therefore—

[Your knight 'Mercedes' has realized there is no meaning to a sword that can't protect its master and has written a new chivalric code.]

[Mercedes' attack power, critical hit probability, and probability of hitting a vital spot will increase significantly.]

The legendary knight evolved once again.

""Kuoooh...""

Hell Gao moaned after he was stabbed by Mercedes' sword that he had ignored. His aggro that was focused on Grid after losing a lot of health to Grid was finally dispersed. Maybe he was vigilant because he knew Grid was going to collapse soon. Unfortunately for Hell Gao, Grid had a trump card.

"Belial's Power."

The power of fire, the power of darkness, and the power of lies. The 32nd great demon Belial had a total of three powers. The power of fire would have no effect on Hell Gao, the master of hellfire. Even Queen's Flames of Hell, which consumed 90% of the maximum mana, couldn't damage Hell Gao at all. Yet Grid used the power of fire. There was only one reason...

[The passive effect 'Fire Queen' is activated. Stamina won't fall while this passive is maintained.]

It was to enjoy this effect. If it was Grid from a few months ago, he would've focused on the powerful enemy in front of him, fought until his stamina was exhausted, and experienced defeat. However, not anymore. He met the absolute god, Hanul, and Chiyou, the unique god. Hell Gao might be strong, but he was only a 'great demon'. Grid didn't shrink back, maintained his normal heart, and made the best choice.

'Two minutes.'

The final countdown had begun. He had to hold on here and defeat the enemy. Hell Gao finally seemed to become nervous. He ignored the strengthened Mercedes and exchanged several blows with Grid. Then Grid unexpectedly used Decoy. It was enough to deceive Hell Gao, who threw away his sight to awaken his senses.

Grid widened the distance as Hell Gao smashed the magical bird and reached out. His expression was firm, as if allowing no further access. "Request to Stand With Me."

Hundreds of battle gear appeared behind Grid.

""???"

It was now hard to describe it as the roar of a beast. Hell Gao let out sounds that could barely be understood and accelerated. He didn't care that his tattered body could no longer endure his magic power and started to turn to ashes. He felt the weight of these 'tools' containing history as they were made, used, and talked about. The incoming rain of battle gear was another legend in itself. It was something that the current Hell Gao couldn't endure.

The rain of battle gear poured down, piercing and crushing Hell Gao. Grid also flew over. Along with Mercedes, he cut the neck of Hell Gao, who was unable to move.

[The Rune of Gluttony has eaten the power of the weakened great demon Hell Gao.]

It was a short but intense message. It was news of the end of the raid.

[Hell Gao, the master of hellfire, has been successfully defeated!]

Grid and Mercedes smiled at each other as they cut Hell Gao's neck.

[Chapter 1320](#)

[Hell Gao, the master of hellfire, has been successfully defeated!]

['Horn of the Selected Demonkin' has been acquired.]

['Necklace of Hierarchy' has been acquired.]

['Ring of Hierarchy' has been acquired.]

[39 Blessed Weapon Enhancement Stones have been acquired.]

[68 Blessed Armor Enhancement Stones have been acquired.]

[Your reputation in hell has increased by 2,000.]

[Your level has risen.]

[Your level has risen.]

[Horn of the Selected Demonkin]

[Rating: Legendary

Durability: 890/890 Attack Power: 2,599

* Attack speed will increase by 20%.

* Critical hit chance will increase by 50%.

* Critical hit damage will increase by 120%.

* 50% increase in fire resistance.

* There is a 30% chance to counterattack when hit by a fire attribute attack.

The horn of the demonic creature chosen by Hell Gao and was deprived of its body.

It is hard and sharp, so it is good to use as a weapon.

Conditions of Use: Level 600. Advanced Sword Mastery Level 5.

Weight: 830]

‘This.’

As a legendary rated item, it naturally had a great performance, but it wasn’t enough to satisfy Grid.

‘The performance isn’t bad, but the level restriction is uselessly high.’

It would’ve been considered if the level limit was 400. However, it was level 600. Grid was first in the unified rankings and had just reached level 417. This meant 600 was an unrealistic number.

‘It means that Hell Gao’s level was that high.’

Hell Gao’s level was proportional to the number of fire stones. From the time he summoned seven fire stones with his appearance, his level would’ve been different from before. There was a high probability that this raid wouldn’t have been possible if not for Fenrir’s Power to overcome the level difference.

‘No, it would’ve been impossible.’

The greatness of the rune was realized. Recently, the runes were evaluated as the ‘ultimate’ system. There were no limits to the runes. Just as Grid’s rune gained unique abilities every time he defeated named demonkin, demonic creatures, and demons, the other runes released into the world would grow infinitely every time certain conditions were met.

Of course, the difficulty of achieving these conditions were terrifyingly high. Wasn’t it obvious that the growth conditions were difficult just by looking at Grid’s rune? Defeating named demonkin, demonic

creatures, and demons wasn't something that anyone could do. There were no easy opponents among the direct descendant vampires and the great demons that Grid raided.

[Rune of Gluttony]

[* Weakened Great Demon Hell Gao's Power]

[Domination]

[There is a certain probability of controlled demonic creatures with a lower level than you.

You can control up to two demonic creatures.

Resources Consumed: Target demonic creature's food, 10,000 mana

Domination Duration Time: 24 hours.

Skill Cooldown Time: 30 minutes]

"Hmm..."

It was an unexpected power. He naturally thought Hell Gao would give him a power related to fire, but this line of thinking seemed to be too narrow.

'It isn't strange to give me the power to dominate demonic creatures because he takes over the body of a demonic creature every time he appears in the human world.'

Was this a force to be pleased with? Demonic creatures referred to monsters living in hell and Grid didn't know hell very well. He couldn't properly measure the level of hell's monsters.

'I don't know...'

It was too bad. Perhaps if he had raided Hell Gao in his intact state, then he would've gained multiple powers at once like Belial and then he wouldn't have felt this ambiguity. Grid was smacking his lips together when he suddenly felt puzzled. 'Will I gain additional powers if I raid the same target repeatedly?'

In fact, Grid hadn't expected Hell Gao's powers to be attached to the rune. Hell Gao was different from other great demons. He didn't expect Hell Gao to be valued since he respawned in a specific area every cycle like an ordinary boss monster.

However, Hell Gao's power was attached to the rune while Hell Gao would respawn again next month. No, since the number of fire stones had increased, it would be 40 days later? Grid thought it would be better to kill Hell Gao again at that time.

'Hell Gao's other powers can be attached to the rune... he can't be killed unless I appear myself.'

He wasn't underestimating the raid teams led by the Overgeared members. Hell Gao was just too strong. First of all, his level was overwhelming. Grid might be able to deal with it using Fenrir's Power, but what about the other players?

"Um...?"

Grid had been rubbing the demonic creature's horn when immersed in thoughts, only to suddenly realize it was uncomfortable to hold. It was because this grip was really bad. It seemed uncomfortable to use this horn because it wasn't a weapon intended to be used by humans. It was the body part of a demon, after all.

'This means...'

Wouldn't it be reborn as a much better weapon if the shape was refined to be usable? In particular, there was a high probability of lowering the ridiculous user restriction.

'I should improve my understanding of it while using it for the time being.'

Once he increased his understanding to 100% and used Item Modification, it would be reborn as a top-notch weapon. It might not be able to reach the rank of swords such as the Enlightenment Sword and the Fire Dragon Sword, but it would still be a first-tier weapon. Furthermore, Grid's swords could only be used by himself while the monster's horn could be transferred to the Overgeared members. Easing the level condition would greatly contribute to the increase in the guild's power.

Grid first used Pagma's Eyes to improve his understanding and he looked at the necklace and ring.

[Ring of Hierarchy]

[Rating: Legendary]

* Intelligence +300

* The duration of taming type skills will be doubled.

* Intelligence +100 when worn with the Necklace of Hierarchy.

★If the taming target is a monster of hell then the duration of Domination is permanently changed.

A ring that symbolizes Hell Gao's status and power.

The demonic creatures of hell will instinctively submit.

User Restriction: Level 500 or higher.

Weight: 11]

[Necklace of Hierarchy]

[Rating: Legendary]

* Intelligence +300

* Dignity +300

* The number of controllable demonic creatures +2.

* Intelligence +100 when worn with the Ring of Hierarchy.

A necklace that symbolizes Hell Gao's status and power. It is red and gorgeous and enhances the dignity of the wearer.

Conditions of Use: Level 550

Weight: 35]

“...Now it wants me to be a tamer?”

The condition of use was to be level 550. It meant the hierarchy items would be considered Grid-only items for the next few years. No, even if the conditions of use were low, Grid had no intention of transferring this to others. How could he give up set items that increased his intelligence by 800?

Grid felt like he was being forced to take a new secondary class. It was a class where he could control four approximately level 400 demonic creatures of hell.

-Yura, recommend some terrifying demonic creatures to me...

It seemed he would have to be active in hell for the time being. He had to investigate the ecosystem of hell, find out which demonic creatures were strongest among the monsters below level 417, and which monsters should be tamed. He would use Demon Slayer Yura as a guide.

[The other person is in a place where they can't receive whispers.]

'She is still hunting.'

It was right to say that Yura was in hell for 23 hours a day. It wasn't easy to communicate with her in the game when she only came back from hell to replenish supplies such as potions and consumables. She worked so hard that her level up speed must be fast. A few days ago, Yura said that she finally achieved level 400...

Yura and Chris had surpassed level 400 and he wondered if Kraugel had reached it. Kraugel's growth rate had been unmatched since the time when he was a genius among geniuses and the supreme one.

'I should go to the National Competition this year.'

He wanted to compete with Kraugel. He was looking forward to seeing his rival who must've become incredibly strong over the past two years.

“Let's go back.”

It happened when Grid smiled and took out a return scroll with Mercedes...

“Grid!”

A cry was heard and soon the members of raid team one appeared, including Pon and Toban.

“Phew, thank goodness. You're safe!”

“Do you know how worried we were?”

It really took 10 years off their life. Grid was Grid, but if something happened to Mercedes, then the entire Overgeared Kingdom would be filled with an atmosphere of sorrow. The relieved Pon and Toban looked around at the signs of destruction.

“By the way, it is fortunate. There would’ve been no solution if Hell Gao had summoned the seventh fire stone.”

“Toban is right. Grid, now is the time to be careful. There is a high possibility that Hell Gao will become much stronger in his next appearance. So don’t challenge him yourself next time. I think the entire Overgeared members must participate in the raid for a chance to succeed.”

“Uh... Yes.”

He would postpone saying that seven fire stones had appeared until next time. He thought that the shock to the kids would be too great.

Grid was nodding silently when Mercedes opened her mouth, “Hell Gao has already summoned the seventh fire stone. After personally experiencing the power firsthand, I think that King Grid should personally be responsible for controlling Hell Gao.”

“Okay, I understand... Eh?”

Raid team one was silent for a moment. They all had wide, dumb eyes after understanding Mercedes’ words. Their mouths dropped open.

At the same time, Kaya on the East Continent...

[Overgeared King Grid has completed the eighth page of the epic!]

[Due to the influence of the epic, the stats of all the legends of this age are slightly increased.]

It was literally a slight increase. His four combat related stats of strength, agility, intelligence, and stamina had each increased by 10 points. Ordinary users might think that everything mattered regardless of how small, but common sense didn’t apply to legendary classes. They led their various fields and were able to grow their stats faster and in a more versatile manner through various quests and titles acquired. In fact, the 40 stat points didn’t have much of an impact on the battle.

Kraugel was still struggling while the yangban Yeum had the advantage. However, Kraugel’s mindset completely changed when he heard Grid’s epic.

‘Grid...’

The distinction between the previous generation and the present was removed? Was it saying that Grid caught up with the legends that were active hundreds of years ago in just approximately a decade? It was completely different from Kraugel who kept standing in place. Daring to compare with Grid...

“Weren’t you going to give up?”

Yeum frowned when Kraugel launched a vicious attack. Her patience was limited. She didn’t expect this ragged human to be so tenacious. After fighting for dozens of minutes, wounds were etched on her body. It made her training and research over the past hundreds of years feel unjust. They were years she spent with Mir while ignoring Chiyou’s Test. She was feeling unpleasant when Kraugel pointed his sword at her. “I have a friend pushing my back.”

“?”

“Swordsmanship Creation. Thunderbolt.”

Yeum’s health gauge fell below 50%. It was a result that exceeded the standards Kraugel initially aimed for.