

Overgeared 1571

Chapter 1571

A top grade fire dragon—the suicide of Ifrit, whom the Tower of Wisdom rated as next in the hierarchy after an old dragon, caused an unstoppable storm of after-effects.

The world's crust fluctuated. Mountain ranges rose across the wilderness and dozens of islands emerged. There were all types of changes that made some of the maps that humanity had been using so far useless. People had no idea what caused the incident. It was simply accepted as a disaster and wasn't connected to the dragons.

It was because dragons were an existence that were completely separated from civilians.

"I don't think we can come back for a while."

The Skunk Adventure Corps became busy. They were preparing for a new adventure to recreate the maps. It might be a journey without promise, but their expressions were all bright. It was because the act of filling the maps was one of the biggest and most reliable reward systems for adventurers. This was a new opportunity for all adventurer players, including Skunk.

"There is news that commanders from each region have been dispatched."

The army also became busy.

The tectonic fluctuations also disturbed the ecosystem. Each area—the hunting grounds were mixed up. There were problems such as level 300 monsters inhabiting the hunting grounds favored by level 100 players. The army needed to control the situation until a new environment was established.

LaueI saw it as a golden opportunity. He had justification to move the army and planned to first identify the profitable areas and preempt them.

"Sir Piaro has asked for permission to send transport teams and farmers."

The changed world needed the help of farmers. It was a situation where agricultural fields were ruined by the changes in terrain and environment. There were some areas where the warehouses that stockpiled food were destroyed. All areas of the continent were worried about food shortages, but the Overgeared Empire had plenty of room to help them.

The Overgeared Empire with Piaro was an agricultural powerhouse. Over the past decade, the farmers that Piaro had personally trained had become teachers of other farmers. Hundreds of thousands of farmers led wagons full of food on an agricultural expedition.

This year, they had ambitions to achieve a good harvest all over the continent. Most of them were talented in cultivating the land even in rock-covered valleys, so they were qualified to be confident.

'Good. Using the pretext of this support, we can exert a stronger influence over our allies and lords.'

"LaueI. Katz, who left to ask Marie Rose for support, says he has found a clue to his class quest."

“.....!”

The still smiling Lael was pleased. The areas most affected by the disaster were the vampire cities. They were located underground and were the most heavily affected by the tectonic fluctuations. Most than half of the cities were completely buried. Fortunately, the vampires were very strong.

The number of casualties was small, but the problem occurred afterwards. Sunlight poured through the cracks in the collapsed ceiling and a considerable number of vampires were vulnerable to the sun. They were left breathless and fell into a state of waiting for the night.

Rebuilding the cities was urgent, but the situation wasn't optimistic. There was a shortage of labor. The continent was full of destroyed buildings. Many architects gave priority to restoring the fish for food facilities and defense facilities.

At this time, Noll and Katz acted. The two of them paid attention to the only intact city, Marie Rose's city. Noll was her brother, and Katz visited Marie Rose to ask for help in the name of Beriache's Knight. It was to ask her to temporarily take in the vampires who couldn't sleep and suffered every day.

Then Katz was lucky. Beriache's paintings that decorated Marie Rose's castle—they became a mechanism for conveying all types of information to Katz. The ancient class, Beriache's Knight, responded and had a radical development. This caused Marie Rose to show great interest.

“You are a necessary child.”

Marie Rose was a rare absolute in the human world. If one had to choose a being comparable to her among humans, it was necessary to mention Hayate, but most people didn't know Hayate. They recognized Marie Rose as the strongest. Katz gained the attention and favor of such a being. For Katz, it was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and could be considered as good luck that he established a relationship with Grid.

“Katz... this is unexpected good news.”

The series of events caused Lael to recall Garion, the earth god. He had to suspect that this disaster was actually Garion's blessing. There was a basis for this suspicion. Garion, who restored the world every time Kraugel cut it, was now standing idly by and doing nothing. The crust of the entire continent had changed and not intervening at all was completely in contrast with his usual attitude.

It was natural to interpret it as this disaster being caused by Garion's will.

‘Is Garion determined to stand on the side of humanity, to be exact, Grid?’ Lael's expression full of expectations was bright. He didn't care at all about the documents recording the status of human casualties that were piled up like a tower. It was because the value of the change caused by this disaster was greater than the value of those who died in the disaster.

“Mother!”

“Thank you! Thank you very much!”

Jishuka and the Overgeared members were focused on saving lives. They searched through the rubble of buildings to save even one more life. Jishuka's transcendent vision of seeing the space from above played a big role.

"This is fine thanks to Jishuka, but it won't be easy in other areas," Toban spoke bitterly as he looked at the reunion between the barely rescued mother and her daughter.

The expressions of his other colleagues were also uncomfortable.

Jishuka comforted them, "The kids are learning special skills these days. The situation elsewhere won't be bad either."

Damian and the Overgeared God Church, Faker and the Overgeared Shadows, Ruby and the Sanctity Church, and other Overgeared members were dedicated to relief efforts. Jishuka believed in their skills and hard work.

"Everyone will be doing their best."

"However, there aren't enough workers," Toban refuted it as he walked. He had a troubled expression, like he didn't want to do this.

"Lauel, why did he send troops to the hunting grounds first?"

Toban was unhappy with Lauel's attitude, who seemed to have little interest in civilians. The reason he couldn't swear openly was because Lauel was a colleague, not because he was the prime minister of the great empire. There was an unwritten rule that when scolding colleagues, they should do it openly in front of the parties involved, like Pon and Vantner, and not behind their backs. It was to prevent the seeds of discord.

Jishuka defended Lauel, "The hunting grounds are mixed up. He needs to quickly figure out which areas high value bosses will appear in and drop high demand items."

The existing information had become worthless. Lauel wasn't turning a blind eye to the victims. He was just doing his best for the empire.

In fact, Jishuka's heart also wasn't comfortable as she explained to her colleagues. She knew how cold Lauel's personality was. Wasn't there a record of him killing tens of thousands of soldiers? Honestly, she sometimes felt that he was a bit too much, but she couldn't criticize Lauel recklessly.

Her role was a mediator. She had the greatest reputation in the Overgeared Guild after Grid and had an obligation to keep the center. If she started to evaluate Lauel using private emotions, then factions were likely to form.

'It is true that Lauel is working for the Overgeared Guild.'

Lauel's judgment and choices were mostly right. The problem was that he sacrificed people along the way... they were sacrifices for the best results. If she antagonized him every time despite knowing this clearly, the organization itself would have problems.

'I have to work hard in order to save the people who were sacrificed.'

Fatigue flashed across Jishuka's face as she vowed once again, but it was only for a moment. She shook off her fatigue by recalling Grid's face.

'I want to see him.'

After his political marriage to Basara, Grid's nature became very magnanimous. In reality, he honestly expressed his feelings to Jishuka. They already enjoyed dating twice this week. The funny thing was that once Grid became active, Jishuka started to feel ashamed.

".....?"

Her colleagues stared at her strangely as she started blushing and fiddling with her fingers.

The dimension warp gate connecting the surface and hell. The construction with the name of 'hell elevator' encountered great difficulties. The massive earthquake a few days ago caused the elevator that was under construction to collapse. It was an astronomical loss because it was the largest construction in history with the largest amount of national manpower and capital.

Prime Minister Lauel said it didn't matter and comforted Ke by saying they could start over... Ke's heart was very uncomfortable. It wasn't because Administrator Rabbit suddenly visited. It was due to the pressure to start the hard and complicated tasks all over again. The construction of the hell elevator was a difficult task to handle using Ke's knowledge and skills. His fatigue was too high.

"Huhuhut."

As Ke sighed, Filewolf was laughing. He was happy to be able to start the job from scratch again. He was ecstatic with the strong capital of the Overgeared Kingdom, which had become an empire. He liked the attitude of the higher ups who supported them and told them not to care about failure.

'This nation is heaven for scientists.'

It reminded him of the prime of his homeland that was destroyed. However, what he liked more was his new body. A metal body that was usually cold, but quickly heated up. Didn't it closely resemble his soul, which combined intelligence and passion? It was indeed a perfect sense of unity. Additionally, no matter how much he worked, he was able to do delicate work without being exhausted. It was incompatible with the weak bodies of the giants or humans.

"A magic machine is a god. Therefore, I am a god as well. Gasp... Gasp..."

'This guy is sick again.'

Ke stared blankly at Filewolf, who was speaking nonsense with rough gasps again. The resurrected (?) giant—the respect Ke had for the great scientist who designed the hell elevator was truly gone. Even Ke didn't understand Filewolf's behavior despite being eccentric among the dwarves.

"....."

On the spire of the Overgeared Palace...

The Fronzaltz and Radwolf brothers, who followed Grid in a stealthy state, were at a loss for words.

Grid coughed as he saw their trembling gazes fixed on Filewolf. "It is hard to believe, but that is Filewolf."

"...There is no way not to believe it. I recognized him with one glance."

".....?"

"He devoted his last years to becoming one with the magic machines... it was a near madness-like obsession. I didn't expect him to achieve his dream after a thousand years. No, what type of madman trapped a person's soul in a magic machine?"

"Cough, Brother."

"Ah...? Oh, forget my last sentence."

"....."

After a while—

In an awkward atmosphere, the reunion between Filewolf and the brothers was completed. They unexpectedly met another survivor (?)..

Unlike the emotional brothers, Filewolf only showed interest in the God's Circle.

"It is possible."

He was indeed the greatest scientist in the history of the giants. Filewolf confirmed that the God's Circle could be repaired. The power of the Tower of Wisdom was rapidly strengthened. The result was thanks to Grid.

Chapter 1572

The giants perished over a thousand years ago. Their civilization was submerged in the deep sea and completely disappeared. Humanity of the modern era had no way of knowing the history of the giants.

Stormbringer, Argo, God's Circle, etc. This was why the great treasures of the species who destroyed demons and confronted dragons were forgotten.

"Among the treasures of the giants, God's Circle has the greatest versatility and is very complex. It isn't easy to repair."

"....."

"Still, I can do it. I am the one who led the design of God's Circle."

"Ohh!!"

The brothers, Fronzaltz and Radwolf, were excited. It was the moment when they encountered the history that they thought had disappeared. Emotions came flooding in like a tsunami. Filewolf's behavior of caressing his chest made of cold metal was no longer unpleasant. It didn't matter what he looked like or what he did. It was worthwhile even if he was a beast that stank of cheap feces.

“There is just one problem. God’s Circle is a treasure that is made of 32 types of metals, adding the cutting edge technology built by dozens of scientists throughout their lives and the elemental power gained through the favor of the world tree. There are endless calculations, so readjustment is necessary if there is even the slightest deviation.”

In other words.

“It means that in order to fix God’s Circle, we must get closer to the concept of recreating it. I need to ask the world tree for help again, but will the old tree help? I would be lucky if I could step into the forest.”

“Doesn’t the world tree have a tendency to cling to peace? I think she will cooperate if we explain the role of the tower.”

Filewolf was resurrected in the magic machine made of Greed. This meant he was completely under the control of Grid and it wasn’t strange for him to accompany Grid to climb the tower. In other words, it was a position similar to Noe, Randy, and the Overgeared Skeletons. The brothers, Fronzaltz and Radwolf, didn’t hide the existence of the tower from him. It was shortly after explaining the history and role of the Tower of Wisdom. Nevertheless, Filewolf shook his head.

“The world tree is old and sick. It has been a long time since she has been too weak to be worthy of her reputation. Half of the remaining life will be lost if we want to strengthen God’s Circle.”

“This...”

The role of the world tree for the surface was very important. The world tree was beneficial just by existing. The moment the world tree disappeared, the air of the world would become turbid and nature would lose its vitality. Was it worth sacrificing the life of the world tree to repair God’s Circle? It was a matter for the world tree to judge. The tower couldn’t weigh it casually.

The repair of God’s Circle seemed very distant. It happened as the brothers, Fronzaltz and Radwolf, were thinking this...

“I don’t understand something.” Grid, who had been silent until now, came forward and spoke, “It isn’t the power of the world tree, but the power of the elementals needed to create God’s Circle, right? So why is the lifespan of the world tree slashed?”

It was an accurate point. Filewolf had explained that God’s Circle was created by ‘adding the elemental power gained through the favor of the world tree.’

Radwolf came out and spoke, “It is because the power of the elemental kings is needed. It is also many elemental kings.”

Filewolf nodded. "That's right. Five elemental kings need to be summoned in total to borrow their power and this is a big burden for the world tree. In particular, the highly aloof light elemental king is a big problem.

“Light elemental king...?”

“You must’ve never heard of it. There are very few humans who know about the elemental kings that are difficult to meet, let alone the rarest light elemental king. They tend to be obsessed with the

purification of demonic energy, so they don't care much about the surface..." Filewolf's red eyes started to rotate as he talked.

It was due to the light that suddenly appeared. It was the 'advanced light elemental' that contracted with Grid.

"Ah... You must've heard of the light elemental king. You wouldn't have met it, but...?" Filewolf was correcting himself only to fall silent again. He got a strange feeling from the way that Grid cocked his head. He noticed that Grid had something to say so he waited. Soon, he heard shocking words.

"My lover has signed a contract with the light elemental king... It was in the past."

"What...?!"

"What is this?!"

The brothers, Fronzaltz and Radwolf, shot up from their seats. The eyeballs under their eyelids seemed like they were going to pop out. Filewolf also had an intense reaction. "Is that true? Lover? Is it the female knight you go around with every day?"

"No, not Mers."

"Ah, you are referring to the Bow Saint I saw a while ago. Her cheerful nature means she can communicate with an elemental king..."

"No, not Jishuka, but Yura. She is usually in hell, so you haven't seen her."

"Hell?"

No one talked about the unusually large number of lovers. Grid was a god and an emperor, so it wouldn't be surprising if he had 3,000 women. The giants focused on the word 'hell.'

"Don't tell me... is it perhaps the Demon Slayer?"

"That's right."

"Hah...! That's right! She is worthy of the light elemental king!"

The gazes of Fronzaltz and Radwolf toward Grid changed.

Mercedes, Jishuka, and Yura—the women around Grid were legends. Originally, it was hard to give birth to one in an era. Now Grid captured the hearts of three legends. Grid truly didn't have ordinary capabilities. They thought it was great.

On the other hand, Filewolf's thoughts were different. "By the way, why are you leaving Greed behind and dating humans? You've made the best mineral in the world, so why...?"

"....."

Grid ignored him.

Wounded dragons were rare to see. The fact that a dragon suffered irreparable wounds meant they were dealt by an old dragon. Few dragons survived after being targeted by an old dragon. In other words, Ifrit was a unique elixir in the world. Yet they failed to hunt her. The cause was Grid, and Mir was absolutely responsible for letting Grid go freely.

“Let’s discipline him with a flogging.”

This was proposed by King Sobyel, who finished investigating the case. It was ridiculously lacking to satisfy the three masters. The three masters lost their minds because they witnessed the ‘crazy god and crazy dragon’ that had never been seen before. They were in a position where they needed the next half a year to recuperate. Yet the one who created this situation, Mir would just be flogged?

“That can’t be.”

“Are you going to spare the child who betrayed Hanul?”

The regular sound of ‘tap, tap, tap’ suddenly stopped.

“Then do you want to kill him? Are you saying this because you think you can recreate that child?”

There was still a gentle smile on the face of King Sobyel. However, the reflection of the three masters in his pupils were split into six pieces and the three masters felt great panic.

“You have been kicked out of Asgard, but you still can’t figure out who you are up against? Now we can’t get angels on the surface. We have no choice but to make and train them ourselves. Therefore, every one of them is valuable. Now you want to kill one without any countermeasures. How should I react?”

“We’re sorry... we were too agitated that we didn’t speak properly...”

The three masters lowered their eyes and trembled. Even the first ones made by a god of the beginning, Hanul, became smaller in front of King Sobyel, who personally inherited Hanul’s blood.

“Don’t worry, it will be a sufficient warning for Mir.”

Four in the left eye and two in the right eye.

The eyes of King Sobyel, which had split into taiji shapes, returned to their usual appearance. Eyes that shone brighter than obsidian. It felt like he embodied the image of a benevolent god among civilians.

“.....”

The expression gradually disappeared from Mir’s face as he was bound to the rack.

There was a touch of loss and oblivion woven in.

Mir’s precious memories and emotions had dimmed.

Yura didn’t really realize the existence of the light elemental king. The number of times the elemental king assisted her was low enough to be counted using her hands.

First, they weren't able to communicate. It was hard to use because she couldn't catch it. Most of the skills gained from signing a contract with the elemental king were often arbitrarily deactivated. It was impossible to control because the cooldown time was marked as 'when desired.' It was a phenomenon that became worse over time.

"I understand."

Nevertheless, Yura readily accepted Grid's request. It was a request to summon the light elemental king in front of the world tree. It was hard to guarantee success but she didn't want to refuse. It was very unusual for Grid to make a request of her and she was the only person in the world who could summon the light elemental king.

'I will surely do it.'

Grid, Filewolf, and Yura—an uncomfortable companionship began.

Yura was very annoyed by the metal robot that kept gasping and stroking his body. It overshadowed the experience of meeting ugly demonic creatures and demons in hell, and made her feel a bit offended.

Filewolf spoke to such a Yura, "Generally speaking, men are fond of hands that love touching their own bodies. It is hard for women like you to be loved for a long time."

".....?!"

It was nonsense that a pervert spoke to rationalize his behavior, but Yura took it seriously. It was because Filewolf was more like Grid's pet. There was a possibility that he represented his master's thoughts to some extent.

She felt a great sense of crisis and clung tightly to Grid.

"???"

Yura's clumsy touch as she secretly brushed her hand against her waist and thighs confused Grid.

"This place hasn't been affected by the tectonic fluctuations."

"Of course. The world tree is a divine tree supporting the sky. The world tree is the center of the world and the center doesn't fall easily."

The World Tree's Forest was the same as before. The elves ran to Grid's group and welcomed him. "I greet the Overgeared God."

Grid and the Overgeared members were the benefactors of the world tree and the elves. This was why the Overgeared members could contract with the elementals. In recent years, the elves' favorability and respect for the Overgeared Empire reached the maximum after it defeated the dark elves army and led the way to victory in Great Human and Demon War.

"I am new to such an attitude from these long-eared people..."

Filewolf marveled at the appearance of the elves, who acted respectfully every time they encountered Grid. It was a reaction that disproved the aloof character of the elves.

"I would like to ask for your assistance in order to reconstruct God's Circle. I am requesting for you to summon the five elemental kings."

Filewolf was also polite in front of the world tree. He respectfully made an unreasonable request. It didn't have much of an effect.

-I have already kept my promise with the giants in the distant past. Filewolf, you don't have the right to ask this of me.

"Please listen to me."

Filewolf left the elves and Yura behind and explained the situation. He mentioned the existence of the Tower of Wisdom and the hard work of the tower members fighting to protect humanity. Of course, he didn't forget to say that Yura had signed with the light elemental king, so the burden would be less. However, the attitude of the world tree didn't change.

"It is over."

Filewolf fell silent as he faced the worst situation. He looked at the old bracelets that the brothers, Fronzaltz and Radwolf, protected with bitterness. He had a conscience.

The brothers who watched the destruction of their homeland—they were the only two left, and were more lonely and painful than anyone else. Even so, they fought for humanity. Filewolf was proud of them and pitied them. He frankly wanted to help them.

"The world tree is nature after all. There are limits to understanding and resonating with human beings. Persuasion is impossible."

It was a waste of time to stay any longer. It happened when Filewolf told them to go back with regret...

"World tree."

Grid came out in person. He solemnly requested of the divine spirit that he couldn't see the end of even when he lifted his head carefully, "Can you reconsider? The power of the tower members is essential for this world. I want them to be stronger."

-I understand.

".....?"

Filewolf was flustered by Grid making a request when he was giving up. Then the world tree responded. The soft voice was gentle.

-I'll accept your request and call the five elemental kings. I will definitely do so, even if I wither.

Chapter 1573

"Thank you."

She would surely call the five elemental kings, even if it meant withering. Grid felt the sincere will and eliminated the traces of doubt buried deep in his heart.

'I'm certain. The world tree doesn't have a friendly relationship with Asgard.'

In fact, it was natural. If the world tree had interacted with the gods, she wouldn't have become sick from Yatan's essence. Additionally, the Overgeared Guild wouldn't have contracted with the elementals.

The reason Grid had been wary of the world tree was that, at the roots, the world tree was a divine tree. People believed that the world tree was a tree planted by the gods. There was a story that the first thing Rebecca did when creating the world was to plant the world tree.

From Grid's perspective, it was difficult to rule out the possibility that the world tree was under Rebecca's control. Putting aside the rapport that his colleagues shared with the elements, he was mindful of the possibility of being betrayed by the world tree.

Fortunately, it was groundless. At this moment, the world tree declared that she would give her lifespan for Grid. It wasn't empty words. The world tree immediately put it into practice. Graphics that were hard to see in any culture emerged around the world tree and formed rules. The rules produced new forms, colors, and attributes, and became four different magic circles.

"Mother...!" The elves exclaimed. It wouldn't be strange if they cried right away based on their expressions. It was a reaction that proved the sincerity of the world tree.

Summoning the elemental kings—Filewolf's prediction that it would be a burden on the current world tree was right. The branches that extended toward immeasurable areas like discussing infinity were withered. The green leaves became haggard like autumn leaves just before falling after a season ended.

Grid could feel it. The 'status' of the world tree had fallen. It was a sacrifice for Grid.

Crack!

Eventually, the twisted white bark lost its luster and fell down with an eerie sound. The image of the transparent essence flowing from the trunk of the world tree overlapped with the image of the blood shed by Biban and Mir.

Beings who fought for Grid against all types of dangers—the world tree was like them.

Four magic circles were soon completed.

[The fire elemental king has appeared.]

[The water elemental king has appeared.]

[The earth elemental king has appeared.]

[The wind elemental king has appeared.]

A dimension divided differently from hell, the surface, and heaven—the rulers of the 'elemental world' had appeared.

-I'm sorry. For me, this is the limit.

The shapes made of light circled in the air and made noises, but the magic circle wasn't completed. They were traces of trying to summon the light elemental king. It was even though she heard that Yura would be in charge of summoning the light elemental king. The world tree wouldn't be pointlessly stubborn.

'She decided that Yura won't be able to summon the light elemental king.'

The road to the forest—throughout the journey, Yura's expression had been dark. Grid thought it was because of Fillewolf's perverted actions, but after looking back on it, she was probably worried because it was difficult to communicate with the light elemental king.

Yura approached. "How long will the elemental kings be present?"

She couldn't hide her nervousness as she asked this. She was worried about whether she could summon the light elemental king first, or if the other elemental kings would leave first.

The world tree replied.

-It is up to Grid. It is Grid's wish that made this summoning.

The eyes of the elemental kings were on Grid.

[Overgeared King. I learned about your reputation from the daoist immortals of the Peach Blossom Spring.]

One of the elemental kings spoke. Just as the world tree was a tree, they were fire, water, earth, and wind. They didn't have mouths, so the language was implemented through their willpower. The sound resonated from all directions, like the secondary skill of a fourth class martial artist and assassin, 'All Directions Sound Transmission.'

However, Grid quickly identified the source of the words. It wasn't difficult for him with his transcendent senses and divinity.

'It is the fire elemental king.'

The flame that gradually grew larger after its emergence—the attitude of using every tree it touched like firewood was like a tyrant. It even had a momentum like it would burn the world tree.

[It is said that you control fire after the red phoenix's heart was transplanted. However, do you know? Many of the world's offerings come from the elements of the elemental world. The source of fire is me and the red phoenix is just my other self. You can't even bear my fire. How dare you ask for me to descend and ask for my help?]

The fire elemental king was as violent as its outward attitude. It was as if he was putting the world under his feet.

'The source of fire is the elemental king?'

He was saying that the red phoenix, one of the Four Auspicious Beasts, was just his other self? Grid, who was surprised after learning this new fact, asked, "Then is Trauka also your other self?"

It was a question raised out of pure doubt. There was no other intention, but the response of the fire elemental king was very fierce.

[Do you have to belittle me by referring to an existence outside of the specifications? You are truly an unreliable person.]

It took it as a provocation.

Grid was blinking from the absurdity when Filewolf whispered to him, “There is definitely a myth that Rebecca used the elements of the elemental world when she created the world. It is just that no one can answer the question of whether the elemental world has existed since the beginning. On the other hand, the old dragons are definitely of the same generation as the gods of the beginning, including Rebecca.”

“...Do the elemental kings feel inferior to the dragons?”

“That’s right.”

“No, you should’ve told me that quickly.”

“I never thought you would bring up Trauka’s name.”

[What are you muttering?]

The body of the fire elemental swelled even more. It surged like a tsunami and threatened to swallow Grid. Grid was feeling flustered when a whisper was heard. It was an elf specific sound transmission that carried the voice on the wind. The beautiful voice rang in Grid’s ears only.

-Basically, elementals aren’t favorable to humans. They instinctively reject the civilization pursued by humans because it damages nature. By the time they are an elemental king, they don’t properly communicate with the humans they have acknowledged and contracted with.

-Overgeared God, you didn’t do anything wrong. The elemental kings must’ve been thinking of testing your qualifications from the beginning. So, they would’ve found fault no matter what attitude you showed.

Testing his qualifications? Certainly, the world tree mentioned that the time that the elemental kings would stay depended on Grid.

‘Are we going to fight?’

Elementals—beings who didn’t intervene in other dimensions. Those who felt hostile and avoided humans couldn’t be liked just because he was Grid. However, there were elementals contracted with his colleagues, including his light elemental, Light Stone, so he tried to respect them. There was no reason to refuse a fight at a time when there was the justification of proving his qualifications.

‘Rather, it is good.’

He would take this opportunity to vent. What was so good about those who hid among themselves and raised their noses high in the air at a time when the demons were active or the gods were playing insidious tricks?

Grid’s gaze toward the elemental kings became cold. He let go of trying to respect them and expressed his honest feelings. It was closer to hostility.

[You?] The fire elemental king moved up and down loudly. [Are you staring at me in a situation where you should be keeping your head down?]

“Let’s talk nicely. That is how to make your words good.”

[What? You are quite nasty. Do you mistakenly think you are equal to me? I’ve met quite a few humans, but I’ve never seen a human like you who doesn’t grasp the subject.]

‘As expected. It doesn’t know that I’ve become a god.’

Grid found out that the elemental kings were ignorant about the world’s affairs. He noticed it when the fire elemental called him the Overgeared King. He thought they had been grasping the information through the elementals on the surface, but the actual truth was surprising. The problem seemed to be caused by being indifferent to the human world, or lacking a sense of time because of their eternal life.

In any case, it was good for Grid. The Grid identified by the elemental kings would be the Grid around the time when he just got the heart of the red phoenix.

Clink!

Grid combined four swords into two and both hands were armed. The elementals were more of a phenomenon, not a substance. It was estimated that he needed special measures to cut them, such as the Falling Moon Sword that could only be wielded once every 10 minutes.

First of all, he planned to amplify the attack power as much as possible before slashing.

‘The odds will be high if physical attacks work.’

Grid had gained quality experience. From the time of the Great Human and Demon War, he had met and fought Baal’s ego, Martial God Zeratul, the number one archangel, Mir, the three masters, and Ifrit. If he placed the gods of the beginning as 1st tier, it meant he experienced the worldview of around the 2nd-3rd tier in succession. His eye for measuring the level of the opponent was raised greatly so he didn’t stiffen in front of the elementals.

In Grid’s view, the status of the elemental kings wasn’t very high. They weren’t comparable to Ifrit or the number one archangel, and they were a long way behind Mir. They seemed similar to Baal’s ego, if he gave them a high evaluation. It was unlikely that it would be an illusion like when he mistook Ifrit’s other self.

The elemental world didn’t belong to the center of the world view. In the first place, it was unfounded for an elemental king to be very strong.

‘The light elemental king proves that.’

It was said that if the light elemental king was completely manifested, it would be comparable to a great demon. As for the current Grid, all the great demons except ‘the three evils of the beginning’ were just small fries.

[You don’t seem to be afraid of fire because you trust the heart of the red phoenix. Arrogant fellow. You will soon regret it.]

“You talk too much.”

Grid raised his chin.

“Bring it on.”

As his reputation grew, Grid had worked to be polite, but this depended on the opponent. He didn't want to be polite to those who took advantage of the position of being asked for help to talk nonsense.

[You need educating!]

The fire elemental king expanded its size like a wave and rushed toward Grid. He thought it would feel like this if he was surrounded by hundreds of thousands of soldiers, but it left little impression.

Grid's swordsmanship covered all directions.

“200,000 Army Crushing Sword.”

First, he slashed all the flames that entered his field of view.

“Transcended Linked Kill Wave Pinnacle.”

The five fusion sword dance was implemented with one step. From the standpoint of facing each other, it was a step and sword technique that implied dozens of possibilities. The flames were split into hundreds of branches. They scattered in all directions and dyed the forest red. It meant they were cut.

As the name suggested, the fire elemental was a collection of fire phenomena, but permanent phenomena didn't exist. Even the scales of a dragon were torn apart, weakened, and lost by all types of physical phenomena caused by the damage of Grid's slash.

[Wh...at!]

The rapidly reduced flame revealed its core. It was a flame that burned fiercely alone while the waves of fire were swept away by the sword wind. It was natural for it to be Grid's target.

“Drop Dragon Pinnacle Kill Wave.”

He was humble in front of Sword Saint Biban, but Grid's techniques were good enough.

The process of using the finishing stride of Transcended Linked Kill Wave Pinnacle as a stepping stone to link it to Drop Dragon Pinnacle Kill Wave was as natural and rapid as flowing water. It was a speed that wasn't easy to respond to when facing it for the first time and it was linked with unpredictable power.

The fire elemental king rapidly raised its body temperature to burn and melt the approaching sword, transforming into a blue flame. However, it was meaningless. Grid's sword, made of Greed, didn't melt. It maintained an eerie air as it penetrated the blue flame.

Thunder seemed to echo. The deafening sound was chained and the fire elemental king completely lost its momentum. Like the fire of a match that was about to become ashes, it was reduced to a weak existence and fell at the feet of the other elemental kings.

“Next.”

Let's organize the hierarchy properly. Grid held the swords and raised his chin again, but the elemental kings slowly reduced their size.

The water elemental king, which poured out water and wet the ground, becoming a small dew. The wind elemental king, which was creating a storm, became a warm breeze. The earth elemental king, which grew like a mountain, became a stone that could fit in one hand.

[The fire elemental king doesn't speak for us. One who burns its body can't have an organ for thinking, right? To borrow a human expression, it is brainless.]

[I'll wait until the light elemental king is summoned.]

[I, like, human.]

It was a satisfactory reaction. Grid put away his weapons and reassured Yura, "Take your time. I'll wait for you slowly. Pretend we are on an outing."

"Yes." Yura smiled while the elves were completely mesmerized. He talked about an outing just after almost killing an elemental king.

They were afraid in various ways. The fact that Grid wasn't the enemy of humanity was the greatest blessing in history.

Chapter 1574

Names sometimes had great power. It was because it was a symbol of existence.

Overgeared King, Overgeared God, Overgeared Emperor, and Grid—at this moment, all of the names that signified Grid were exerting influence all over the world.

'What?'

The name of the fire elemental king was the same. The source of all the flames in the world—its name followed where there was fire, and it could never be extinguished. However—

'What is this?'

A little while ago, the fire elemental king felt the horror of annihilation. The moment it was slashed by the sword of the human whom it didn't properly identify, it became dizzy. It checked the flames that were scattering and sensed death. It was because the sweeping sword wind was so strong.

The physical phenomenon caused by the human motion of 'swinging a sword' was tremendously powerful. That was all. Thus, it was even more absurd.

'A god with extreme power?'

The fire elemental king had often experienced the human world. It was because humans who were qualified to sign contracts with it were born every few hundred years. It was not ignorant of the human world. Therefore, it knew that humans who didn't understand the target properly easily overused the expression of 'god with extreme power.' It was ridiculous.

The fire elemental king had experienced the ‘gods’ firsthand and desperately knew the weight of the name of a ‘god with extreme power.’ The god with extreme power that the fire elemental king thought of was very different from what humans referred to. A being who caused a disaster with insensitive hand gestures—the idea that Grid was a god with extreme power was embedded in the mind of the fire elemental king.

“Take it easy. Now, eat gimbap.”

“What gimbap?”

“I just made it. I went grocery shopping before we left.”

[.....]

The briefly stunned fire elemental king regained consciousness. The sight in front of it was very unfamiliar. A pair of humans was using the wind elemental king as a mat. They sat on the softly circulating breeze and seemed to be enjoying a fresh play. Next to them, the water elemental king had become a fountain that gave clear water, while rare dishes were prepared on the tableware made by the earth elemental king.

[.....]

The fire elemental king found it absurd and was mesmerized.

On the other hand, the atmosphere that wrapped around Grid and Yura was warm. Grid had been roughly eating bread with every meal, but now he prepared food after grocery shopping. It was all for Yura. Grid planned this gourmet itinerary in the hope that she wouldn’t neglect a meal during their journey together.

Yura was impressed and Grid found it rewarding. The dishes were also successful. Grid had both dexterity and sensation, which were the most important things in cooking.

[The ‘Advanced Cooking’ skill has been opened.]

Grid’s dexterity sublimated the dish called gimbap into art. The rice was wrapped neatly and smoothly with laver, and the color of the ingredients was a beautiful blend that was just as beautiful when put in the mouth. This was the power of dexterity. The workmanship of cutting the gimbap properly surpassed the workmanship of a three-star Michelin chef.

Furthermore, Grid was the owner of transcendent senses and these senses naturally included taste. His ability to taste was truly perfect. It was to the point where he could serve as a teacher for every chef in the world. This was why the cooking skill was opened the moment the first gimbap was made, and it was even the advanced cooking skill.

“What is this gimbap? It is crunchy, but it melts like persimmon?”

“It is the finest laver recommended by Peak Sword. It is dried by the sea breeze of Galest on the day when the sun rises the highest. Seeing how delicious it is, it is worthwhile to airlift it, despite the difficulty.”

“The moment it touches the teeth, the grains of rice and the ingredients inside spread out to deliver the taste to all sides of your tongue. It feels like there is an orchestra of taste unfolding in my mouth. The strength of the dish called gimbap has been maximized.”

“R-Really?”

In fact, Grid wasn't a person who enjoyed gourmet food. He didn't grow up in abundance so he didn't experience a variety of flavors. His taste buds were naturally accustomed to seasonings. He felt that ramyeon broth was more delicious than expensive broth that was boiled with dozens of ingredients.

However, his taste buds had changed little by little thanks to Yura and Jishuka. Over the past few years, he had enjoyed frequent meals with the two of them and widened his spectrum of taste. He experienced a taste he had never known before, became accustomed to it, and pursued various tastes. Such precious experiences seemed to have been reflected in his cooking. It was to the extent that he could make gimbap using a variety of ingredients that existed only in Satisfy.

‘There is a reason why it is said that Satisfy is a gourmet's heaven.’

The reason why Grid neglected to eat in Satisfy was simply because he was busy. He had a lot of work to do that piled up like a great mountain, and it felt like a waste of time to take care of his meals every time. Now he changed his thoughts. He vowed to make sure to take care of the time when dining with his precious people.

The meal he enjoyed at the Tower of Wisdom was a lesson. Grid felt quite happy due to the gourmet feast made by Abellio, and Betty's warm heart as she fed him like he was her grandchild. He wanted to share that happiness with other loved ones and make it a memory.

“White wine would suit it.”

“Really? Water elemental king.”

[I've already prepared it.]

The water elemental king filled a glass made by the earth elemental king with transparent wine. The refreshing breeze that wrapped around the branches of the world tree was a service prepared by the wind elemental. In reality, it was literally a fantasy fine dining experience that was hard to experience even if someone gave billions of gold.

“Come over here.” Grid, who was drinking while stroking the back of Yura's hand, called out to the fire elemental king. The intention was to persuade it to forget the dispute that happened a little while ago, so they could get along well in the future. There was nothing bad about being close to the elemental kings.

[Yes! What type of meat should I cook for you?]

“.....”

There was no need to convince it. Grid was silent as he watched the fire elemental king quickly rushing over and gently igniting the flames.

[The light elemental king is ignoring your call.]

It was the third day they stayed in the World Tree's Forest. These days, Yura was happy to spend time with Grid, who had the hobby of cooking, and the friendly elves and world tree. However, her mind gradually became uncomfortable. The light elemental king refused communication. It was a colder attitude than usual. All the passive skills that occurred when she obtained the light elemental king were disabled.

"It's fine. Let's enjoy it. If I am with you, I can spend a few more days here."

Grid cheered Yura, who couldn't hide her frustration, up. He handed her a skewer made in collaboration with the fire elemental king.

[The light elemental king has been a jerk since ancient times. It is because it believes it is the only line of descent of Goddess Rebecca in the elemental world. Everything was as it pleased, so it used to argue with us often. I think it would be great if you, an extremely powerful god, teaches it a lesson.]

The fire elemental king added. It reiterated that the reason why the light elemental king was quiet wasn't Yura's problem.

Yura felt great gratitude toward the elemental kings. They promised that they would wait until the end without returning to the elemental world.

"The smell of the cooking meat is shocking."

"You came at the perfect time. I've prepared a share for you, so eat as much as you want."

"Thank you for the food!"

The elves also looked forward to the dishes that Grid made. At first, they were reluctant to eat meat, but recently, they enjoyed it. It was due to Grid's pure question if it was wrong to eat plants rather than animals if they really valued nature. Due to the changes in eating habits, the slender bodies of the elves started to develop muscles.

It didn't mean that they gained a big build. Rather, their thighs were fleshy and they developed solid abs, giving the impression of a nimble female warrior. In fact, their overall physical ability had risen. He even had the absurd idea that the elves were close to truthseekers who sealed their own strength by limiting their eating habits.

'I am thankful to them.'

Yura had a determined expression as she looked at the elves and elementals gathered in front of the table filled with Grid's dishes.

Yum.

She suddenly took a bite of the grilled skewer. It was inferior compared to the meal she ate alone with Grid in reality last night, but it was still delicious. Her heart became warm. It could be thanks to the smiles of the elves beckoning her to come over or due to the consideration of the elemental kings who encouraged her.

'Yes, I shouldn't be anxious. Everything will be fine.'

The others believed in her. Doubting herself was just an act of betraying the faith of others.

Yura's eyes shone as she controlled her heart.

The thing that the brightest star lost—Yura's self-esteem, which had plummeted for a while due to Grid's ambiguous attitude, was restored at this moment.

She felt Grid's hands wrapped around her shoulders.

"I think it is because of you."

"As expected, it is like this."

Grid was likely to be the cause of the failure to summon the light elemental king. Grid was hostile to Asgard. The light elemental king considered itself the descendant of Rebecca, so it was natural that it harbored animosity toward Grid.

"In this way, the light elemental spirit might destroy its contract with Yura."

This was the opinion carefully put forth by Filewolf, who had been quietly watching the last five days. Grid couldn't just sit back and watch, so he asked for advice from the world tree.

"Is there no way to resolve the situation?"

-You can go directly to the elemental world and persuade the light elemental king.

"Going directly to the elemental world..."

-The other elemental kings are cooperative with you, so they might open the way to the elemental world.

"How do I persuade the light elemental king?"

-Use the same method that you used to persuade the fire elemental king. Looking at it, this is the most efficient way.

"....."

Were elemental kings more attracted to violence than conversation? It happened as Grid thought about it and seriously nodded...

"I finally succeeded in summoning it." Yura's voice was heard.

The startled Grid turned his head and saw Yura covered in wounds. She was holding the light elemental king in one hand.

'This is summoned... right?'

Chapter 1575

[It is good to see you in this state! Kuhat! Kuhahahat!]

The flames roared. They were synchronized with the emotions of the fire elemental king and expanded as the laughter of the fire elemental king intensified. The good news was that the water elemental king acted as a sprinkler, which avoided the situation of the surrounding bushes turning into ashes.

Grid stood between the mixed up fire and water and clearly grasped the propensity of the elemental kings.

'They don't have deceptive personalities that use empty words.'

In the last five days, Grid had carefully observed the elementals. They were rulers of a dimension. Even if he didn't ask, they made alcohol out of water, a mat out of wind, and dining table and tableware out of earth. He had no choice but to be wary of those who showed him more favor than they needed to, even if it meant bending their pride. Enemies who hid their hostility under goodwill were simply dangerous.

However, he became certain at this moment. The elemental kings weren't the type to hide their intentions. The attitude of the fire elemental king, who died of joy when it saw the light elemental king in Yura's hands, proved it.

'It really does hate the light elemental king.'

Now that he saw it, they were beings that were honest with their feelings. The favor directed toward him was also likely to be sincere. It should be noted that the call of the world tree wasn't compulsory. The world tree said that the duration that the elemental kings remained on the surface depended on Grid's qualifications. They could leave for the elemental world whenever they wanted to, but they didn't leave. They stayed by Grid for the last five days. This meant that Grid had been approached with goodwill since he defeated the fire elemental king and proved his qualifications.

[I was wondering what you were doing. It turns out you were humiliating yourselves as a group?]

Flash!

The light elemental king shone brightly. A powerful light that made both eyes dazzled turned the area white. As Grid and the elves frowned for a moment, the light elemental king was already close to Grid. It had escaped from Yura's grasp.

Grid alternated looking between the flustered Yura and the casual light elemental king. Then he placed his hand on the sheath of his sword. He was wary of the intentions of the light elemental king, who had been deliberately captured.

'It is light. Is it possible to cut it?'

It would be much more difficult than slashing flames. The light elemental king spoke to Grid who was taking a deep breath.

[Overgeared God, I have been watching you.]

The light elemental king was different from the fire elemental king. It knew that Grid was a god.

'Since it is contracted to Yura, has it been watching me from Yura's point of view?'

Or had it been watching him from the perspective of Light Stone? Grid was becoming conscious of Light Stone when his expression became uneasy. It was because Light Stone was being absorbed by the light elemental king. Light Stone was gradually becoming cloudy. It seemed like it was about to disappear.

“.....”

Light Stone felt Grid’s gaze and turned its head. The eyes and mouth made of light showed a contrast. The drawn half-moon face, which was probably made in a desire to communicate with Grid, resembled a smile.

“Light Stone...”

Grid urgently reached out, but he was too late.

[Why did you betray Mother? It is purely thanks to Mother’s favor that you have the present power.]

Light Stone completely scattered. It was decomposed into particle units and absorbed by the light elemental king.

[The advanced light elemental ‘Light Stone’ that is contracted with you is destroyed.]

[The skill ‘Sword of Light’ that was activated by ‘Light Stone’ is destroyed.]

Grid’s expression hardened like a stone. He witnessed the scene where Light Stone’s smile distorted like it was crying just before it disappeared.

[Y-Y-You evil bastard...!!]

The fire elemental king witnessed the destruction of an elemental and was furious.

[Ahh... A pitiful child.]

The water elemental king sighed.

The earth and wind elemental kings had no words. However, the earth and wind that started to shake represented their anger.

The light elemental king didn’t care. Its attitude was that there was no problem even if the other spirits maligned it.

Mother—the word that was used for Rebecca, the goddess of light, explained it. The source of its confidence was the pride in being ‘Rebecca’s descendant.’ It seemed to regard itself as special, unlike other elementals. This was reminiscent of the elitism of the yangbans.

[Try to make a plea. The answer will determine your disposal.]

Light from the light elemental king spread out sharply. Hundreds or thousands of blades appeared in an incandescent manner.

Grid was surprisingly composed. He suppressed the anger of losing Light Stone deep in his heart and analyzed the situation.

‘Why did it show up at this point?’

Light was different from fire. It was hard to exert influence over it with physical force. The light elemental king being captured by Yura... no, it was right to say that it was the light elemental king's will rather than Yura's will. In fact, the light elemental king easily left Yura's hands.

Grid's quickly spinning brain soon gave him an answer. 'It has analyzed me.'

It was possible for the light elemental king to observe Grid using Yura and Light Stone. It was an easy position to see and understand Grid's capabilities. Perhaps after careful analysis, it decided the odds and appeared in front of Grid?

In other words.

'It means it isn't an easy opponent.'

If the light elemental king grasped all of Grid's abilities and was still convinced of its victory...

Naturally, the situation was unfavorable for Grid. It wasn't good to fight recklessly like when he competed with the fire elemental king.

The light elemental king glimpsed the tension in Grid's expression and was excited.

[You've noticed the situation, but there is no need to feel despair. You have a chance to overcome the crisis. Now, Overgeared God. Tell me why you betrayed Mother. Confess in detail the greedy sin you have committed and ask for forgiveness. Do you know? My loving mother will give you a new opportunity.]

Confession of sin and forgiveness. The scheme of the light elemental king was obvious.

Grid's act of informing the world about the reality of the gods—in other words, it intended to manipulate and imply that all the actions that undermined Rebecca's prestige and destroyed the Rebecca Church were false and driven by greed. From the time when Grid admitted that what he had done was a 'sin' and all the truths he revealed were false and asked for forgiveness, the reputation of the fallen gods would be restored again.

[Be careful. The energy of the light elemental king is different from before.]

The wind elemental king whispered. It warned that the light elemental king, the strongest of the elemental kings, had become stronger.

[The light elemental king has communicated with Asgard. It has the intention to dedicate the elemental world to the gods. It is highly likely that a god is watching behind it.]

Grid realized the reason why the elemental kings showed favor to Grid. Perhaps it was because they wanted to be saved from Asgard.

'There is no way the elemental kings don't know the reality of the gods.'

The gods of Asgard didn't have the best of intentions toward humanity. It was hard to think they would be particularly respectful of elementals. Furthermore, the gods of the beginning periodically destroyed and recreated the world. The elemental kings might outwardly respect the gods, but they couldn't help being afraid. It was because destruction against their will wasn't sweet.

'They want to rely on me as well.'

Grid's scope of thinking as he noticed this grew even bigger. It was the aftermath of expanding to include the elemental world in his perception of the 'world.'

'It is a chance to have a clear friendship with the elemental kings.'

Grid knew the power of the elementals. The hundreds of elementals signed with the Overgeared members and the artificial elementals from Trauka's lair didn't show a steady performance. What if they could communicate directly with the elementals and cooperate with each other? For example, if they were able to provide opportunities to contact with elementals even for ordinary people, not the Overgeared Guild, the power of humanity would be greatly strengthened.

'It is beneficial to have more people to rely on.'

Grid's gaze gradually changed as he judged this.

Killing intent, which had been suppressed, rose in his dark eyes and projected toward the elemental king.

[Foolish... are you going to give up on the opportunity that will never happen again?]

The light elemental king noticed Grid's determination and persuaded him again.

[Choose carefully. If you confess your sins honestly and ask for forgiveness, Mother will look at you. It is a chance to go to Asgard. A chance to become a true god and reign forever!]

"Is that your wish?"

[What?]

"You feel like you have obtained a chance to go to Asgard in exchange for persuading me. It is funny that you call Rebecca your mother when you must prove your qualifications to stay by the gods."

[What are you talking about? Creatures with mouths usually have a lot of useless words.]

"Maybe Rebecca is laughing right now? She must be thinking, 'When did I have such a child?'"

Yura's mouth dropped open as she watched the situation. It was because she glimpsed Huroi's shadow from Grid's manner of talking. In fact, Grid was getting Huroi's advice in real time. He explained the situation in the whispers and asked for help reciting some lines.

He didn't like the light elemental king. The meanness that came out only after predicting the chance of winning, the childishness that flattered Asgard, and the wickedness that swallowed Light Stone—in particular, he couldn't forgive the last reason.

Killing the light elemental king might cause a loss to Yura, but Grid wanted to kill the light elemental king and get rid of it. It was complete enmity and killing intent, emotions that were different from what he temporarily held when facing the fire elemental king.

Meanwhile, the light elemental king had the same feelings toward Grid.

Light—it was clear that it was from Goddess Rebecca. Even so, it was never qualified for Asgard. It felt like it was treated like the common light that could be seen everywhere, all over the world. It always had doubts that it wasn't special and was like the other elemental kings. It just tried to turn away from this. It was afraid to face it head on.

Yet at this moment, it was confronted by Grid. The anxiety and inferiority that had been suppressed exploded.

[It is better for you to die here. What does it mean to live when you have already betrayed the god's favor once. Even if you ask for forgiveness, you will surely repeat the betrayal one day.]

"I feel sorry for Goddess Rebecca. She must be looking back through tens of thousands of years of memories to remember the day she gave birth to you and she must be distressed because she can't remember. She might think she has dementia, so she will feel ashamed."

[You!]

If it was a war of words with Grid who borrowed Huroi's mouth, the other party could only experience a loss.

The light elemental king refused further conversation. It immediately turned into a flash of light and shot toward Grid. Then it paid the price. The moment it pierced through Grid, it was gripped in terrible darkness and its presence became pale. The identities of those who pressured him with darkness were the great magician Braham, and Zik of the seven evils.

"It is you who will die," Grid spat out a mouthful of blood and spoke coolly.

People didn't know this, but Grid wasn't obsessed with one against one wins. If he was obsessed with a fair confrontation, he wouldn't have grown his forces to this point in the first place.

"You will die here today."

Light—the cards that Grid brought out against the light elemental king, which was naturally disadvantageous to him, were very appropriate. For Braham who dealt with magic of all attributes, light was just a concept that could be covered by darkness. Meanwhile, Zik had gone against the gods and had always sought to break through the ultimate destruction of light.

The light elemental king intuitively realized that it had fallen into a disadvantage. It immediately opened a portal to the elemental world. However, the other elemental kings closed the portal.

[King of light, we reject your return.]

[You guys are crazy...! Don't you know that antagonizing me is like betraying Asgard!]

[Haven't we been betraying Asgard in the meantime? If we had served Asgard, we wouldn't have maintained a relationship with the daoist immortals.]

[You...!]

The light elemental king rapidly swelled up. It pushed out the magic of Braham and the darkness lacing Zik's runes to reveal the entire forest. It became a world where contrast had disappeared, but the white world wasn't as beautiful as expected.

"It is the dilemma of mutual destruction."

Braham approached Grid and said, "Let's lift your ban."

"Huh?"

Ban? What type of ban did he have?

Braham gave a hint to the confused Grid, "The man called Damian asserted that the divinity of the Overgeared God is physical strength. I thought about it and found that it makes sense."

".....?"

"If I have to discuss the attributes of physical strength, it is nothingness."

"...Ah?" Grid recalled the fact that Braham's magic attached to his sword dances exerted all types of attribute effects.

Then Braham placed his hand on Grid's forehead. Dozens of different types of magic exited from Grid, shattered like glass pieces and scattered. A suppressed evolution occurred.

['Grid's Sword Dance' has been promoted to 'Overgeared God's Sword Dance.']

[Six sword dances can be fused into one. Currently it can only be done once.]

[From now on, the number of times a six fusion sword dance can be created will increase every time deity rises by 20.]

Grid didn't have divine power even if he became a god. The perfect answer came to him, who had always questioned it. Damian's assertion that the divinity of the Overgeared God was physical strength was correct.

Chapter 1576

According to the words of Sword Saint Biban, the sword dances were just a means of directing a ritual. In fact, Pagma was very weak in the past episodes of the Hwan Kingdom that Grid experienced. He had a different temperament from the other yangbans and was treated differently.

Pagma was raised as a priest to 'assist the gods' rather than a 'god.' It was a type of disposal. It was right to see it as the expelled gods abandoning him due to his different tendencies and abilities rather than making him a yangban. Therefore—

For Grid, the sword dances were a trace and legacy of the underprivileged. He felt a sense of kinship. He could never turn a blind eye to it even when the limitations were pointed out by the strong and sometimes ridiculed.

From Golden Flash and Unbreakable Justice to the skills gained from the Behen Archipelago, magic learned from Braham, the power of the runes, the duke titles, the swordsmanship of the Undeafated

King, and blood magic—Grid had always gained new power. There were cases where these new powers transcended the power and potential of the sword dances.

Grid had been subconsciously turning away from them. Rather, he became more obsessed with the sword dances and trained in them. It was out of the fear that he might be denying himself the moment he abandoned the sword dances, discussing their shortcomings, weaknesses, and limitations.

The result was Grid's Sword Dance. It was the result of transcending Pagma's Sword Dance several times in conjunction with the teachings of Sword Saint Biban, the inspiration given by Kraugel, and Braham's magic and knowledge that coincided with Grid's tenacity that was close to obsession. The sword dances that had grown with Grid were one of the most positive proofs of Grid, who used to be a 'useless being' and it was one of his greatest prides.

['Grid's Sword Dance' has been promoted to 'Overgeared God's Sword Dance.']

"Ah..." The notification window that appeared gave Grid infinite joy and vitality. The ever-bright vision combined with his clear spirit accelerated Grid's thinking. He made a quick decision. He used Storm of the Fire God to prevent the flooding of light. The contrast and shade created by the flames induced the light elemental king to become smaller. The light elemental king couldn't easily escape.

Magic—the law of Braham's magic transcended the concept of common things. Grid's domain became more powerful in conjunction with Braham's magic.

Light and virtue—Zik's runes, which denied everything that symbolized the gods of Asgard, were pressing the light elemental king.

Grid had a complete understanding of the situation.

'Now the sword dances are a part of me.'

It was from the moment it evolved into Grid's Sword Dance. Once he grew to be the Overgeared God, the sword dances should've grown together with him. However, Braham's magic that was attached to the sword dances inhibited its growth.

The Overgeared God's divine power. The attribute was judged to be 'nothingness.' Braham's magic had bad compatibility with the sword dances due to the multiple attributes. As a result, growth didn't occur. This didn't mean he blamed Braham. Braham's magic was the decisive reason why Pagma's Sword Dance grew into Grid's Sword Dance. There would be no Overgeared God's Sword Dance without Braham's magic.

'It is ironic.'

Braham's magic, which created the current sword dance, was actually the cause of suppressing the sword dances.

Perhaps it would've been a truth that was buried forever if it wasn't for Braham noticing it?

"I have really received a lot of help from you every time. Thank you."

"Bah," Braham's expression was uncomfortable as he scoffed. He seemed very displeased. It was natural. The task of hitting Greed with 'Disintegrate' that he had been doing so far was meaningless.

Considering the future, it was right to discard any attributes in the equipment used by Grid. It was because the higher the status of the Overgeared God, the more likely it was that the effects of attributes and harmony would occur. Perhaps from today, Braham would drop Meteor on Greed?

'It must be terrible.'

The thing he had been doing for months was overturned and he had to start over...

Grid felt deep sympathy for Braham. However, there were no empty words such as 'don't overdo it' or 'do it slowly.' Grid was the one who wanted to get the result of magic tempering quickly. Furthermore, Braham regained the power of a direct descendant. It might be different mentally, but physically, he didn't easily get tired. It was Grid's honest feelings that he wanted Braham to save time used for eating and sleeping to finish the work quickly.

"It is somehow unpleasant."

"What?"

Grid's heart as he questioned the frowning Braham was still hot. It was due to the anger that was seething separately from his clear mind.

Light Stone—they couldn't even communicate properly because their emotions and languages were different...

Still, it was a precious colleague. They had obviously been communicating and Grid received a lot of help. Grid could never forgive the light elemental king who took Light Stone's life.

[Overgeared God! Think about it calmly!]

The light elemental king shouted urgently.

[There will be no chance of reconciliation with Mother if you hurt me!]

"So who is your mother?"

[This guy, even until the end...!]

The light elemental king growled out and its killing intent exploded. It wanted to pierce Grid's heart and kill him right now.

The velocity of light—its greatest weapon was the 'speed' that couldn't be countered except by a few rare beings. The light elemental king was confident that if it intended to kill Grid from the beginning, Grid would've already become a cold corpse. However, it hated the attitude of talking nonsense without knowing how to be grateful.

[I feel sorry for you who can't feel my mercy due to your low level.]

The light elemental king abandoned its lingering regrets. It formed the shape of an arrow of light with the determination to kill Grid. It strengthened the power of speed by adding the concept of 'shooting' to the light. Indeed, as the ruler of a dimension, all actions were meaningful. This meaning became real force.

There was just one fact that the light elemental king overlooked. It couldn't easily kill Grid. The result would've been the same even if it aimed to kill Grid from the beginning. This was a fact that all transcendent beings in the world should remember.

Grid had experienced conflicts every day. He had rarely experienced a peaceful period. He was endlessly shaken, hit, and polished without rest like steel. This was why fire dragon Ifrit evaluated Grid as a 'great being who overshadows the times.' Grid was different from the existing transcendents who enjoyed a life of cowardice and had merely built up a long existence. He should not be considered easy.

Hundreds or thousands of beams of light that were like threads unraveling pierced Grid's entire body. Even Greed was destroyed by the light elemental king, who claimed to be Rebecca's descendant. Nevertheless, Grid didn't collapse. Two types of White Tiger's Posture, Calm Before the Storm, First Emperor, etc. He endured the shock using all types of powers.

He took a heavy step without letting go of the swords held in both hands. Rather, Grid's eyes where the light didn't go out gave a subtle fear to the light elemental king.

'He isn't collapsing?'

The light elemental king's sense of reason cried out that it should give up on Grid and leave. However, it was hard for it to leave even if it wanted to. The biggest problem was the gravity field that spread out extensively from the magician who had Beriache's blood and became a god's subordinate. The moment its position moved outside a certain range, the light dimmed and decelerated.

A space where a storm of fire swirled—the moment it left the mental world of the Overgeared God, the light elemental king would become even weaker. It was to the point where light was caught and swallowed up by the darkness and runes that were stretching out.

'First of all, I have to kill that magician to find a way to live.'

The light elemental king made this judgment and laughed from the absurdity.

Light that had existed since before the beginning. It was confident that it was one of the sources of light, but it was experiencing a crisis against three people? The provocation of the Overgeared God lingered in its mind.

'Is Goddess Rebecca truly my mother?'

It was the moment it questioned the truth that it took for granted.

—!

The light glowed like it had been hit by a strong wind. The problem wasn't that the light was weakened due to empathizing with the light elemental king's feelings. It was due to the wavelength of force generated by Grid's actions that pushed the light away.

The principle was simple. The ground crushed by Grid split apart and the fragments that soared up from the impact became a barrier against the light transmission. That was all.

[.....?]

The light elemental king was belatedly shocked. It was because Grid disappeared. It missed Grid's movement the moment the dizzying barrier caused a blockage in its vision.

Drop.

Grid had fallen into a gap in the cracked ground. The land where the spirit elemental king was located became soft. A pattern reminiscent of a whirlpool that occurred in the middle of the sea was engraved instantly on the ground. It was an aftermath that affected the entire tens of kilometers thick crust.

Dragon.

Grid penetrated through the center of the pattern and shot toward the sky.

'This ignorant guy?'

Putting aside its dislike, the light elemental king was derisive. Light couldn't be cut. He was currently wary of Braham and Zik, not Grid. It was always like that.

Just then, the vision of the light elemental king was split in half and shifted. The gathered light blocked by the barrier was neatly cut.

[.....?!]

The light elemental king was shocked. The Martial God that all beings in the world who longed for power envisioned and desired. It was because the appearance of Martial God Chiyou overlapped with Grid for a second.

Pinnacle.

It was proof that the new fusion sword dance, divided into six breaths, perfectly embodied the martial god's strike.

Jingle.

The quiet sound of bells that shouldn't exist here rang out. Of course, Grid thought he was hallucinating. This was until he read the greatly shaken light elemental king who acted like it had heard a funeral march.

[The Ultimate Martial Art is suppressing the target.]

One Who Met the Martial God—the favor given by Martial God Chiyou occurred as if he was praising Grid. It cast a stun that couldn't be resisted or recovered from, ignoring the species, status, and ranking of the target. The greatest of all powers that existed in the world caused the light elemental king to stiffen. It was the moment when the unstoppable light stopped.

There were all types of chaos in its field of view. It was as if a void had descended. The stopped light shattered. It was the aftermath of the disastrous crushing of Link and Kill, which carried the divinity of the Overgeared God behind it and could be called invincible. Nothingness denied the phenomenon of light.

[I can't believe it...]

Shock, confusion, and fear—the thoughts of the light elemental king, which were directly transmitted to Grid’s mind, scattered fleetingly. It was because it was swept away by the waves of condensed sword energy released in the process of linking the sword dances.

[The new fusion sword dance ‘Drop Dragon Pinnacle Linked Kill Wave’ has been created.]

[An unknown person is praising you for your ability to transcend your limits.]

[A strong blessing has fallen on Drop Dragon Pinnacle Linked Kill Wave.]

Jingle.

The sound of bells rang out again. Grid clearly felt that Martial God Chiyou was watching as he swapped the sword in his left hand for the Falling Moon Sword.

The light elemental spirit that reunited as soon as it escaped the influence of Ultimate Martial Art was once again cut in half.

[Kuaack!]

However, light was extraordinary. Following the Falling Moon Sword, it repeatedly recovered after several cuts from the Undefeated King’s Swordsmanship and the five fusion sword dances. Every time this happened, it attacked Grid at a speed that couldn’t be caught with Grid’s senses. It would’ve been a very big crisis without the ‘reconstruction’ function of Greed.

“You endure well.”

Braham and Zik were also active while Grid faced his limits. A gravity field combined with runes turned into a black hole that started sucking in light. The light elemental king sharply weakened. Even so, the situation wasn’t very good. Most of Grid’s attack skills were on cooldown and his resources were at the bottom. He couldn’t afford to deal the finishing blow. At this moment—

[You...! You!!!] The light elemental king that was attempting to ambush Braham suddenly stopped and struggled alone.

Grid felt a faint pressure from inside the light elemental king. It was the sign of Light Stone, whom he thought was extinguished. Light Stone was igniting the last of its willpower to help Grid, not the king it had served so far. Grid responded to that will. He squeezed out courage as someone who had been fighting to repay the expectations of others.

[Kuaaaaaack!]

The light went out.

[The light elemental king has been defeated!]

[A new elemental king has been born based on the laws of the elemental world sustained by the five attributes.]

It was finally over...

Someone supported the body of the collapsing Grid. It was a cute elemental with a smiling face. It was small and blurry in shape, but it contained infinite power.

“Light Stone...? Are you perhaps Light Stone?”

The elemental king of nothingness—the new elemental king nodded vigorously.

[Yes, I am Nothing Stone.]

“.....”

The pillar of light symbolizing a level up fell dozens of times onto the body of Grid, who had a strange expression.

Chapter 1577

“Wow...”

“Beautiful...”

At the center of the World Tree Forest...

The transparent orange waves decorated it in a dizzying manner. It was a sight where dozens of constellations seemed to be gathered together. It felt like the universe had fallen to the ground, but it was actually the trajectory of Overgeared God Grid. The afterimages of his battle route made his feats a reality for the eyewitnesses.

“Sniff sniff.” Filewolf tracked Grid in a specific way. He tried to smell with a nose that didn’t exist. It was because he thought about the scent of metal that he was immersed in during his lifetime. Every time Grid swung a sword, Filewolf felt steel from the spreading waves.

It was a natural process. The Elemental King of Light scattered light every time it was cut by Grid. It reflected and dispersed light like sunlight hitting steel. Filewolf noticed it with one glance. Grid’s nature, or in other words, his divinity, had changed.

‘No, a god’s nature can’t change easily.’

A change in divinity meant betrayal and depravity. Take Rebecca for example. People believed in her and worshiped her because she was the goddess of light. If the divinity she had wasn’t light, but instead something else, it would be an act of deceit and betrayal for those who believed in her and served her.

‘It is right to interpret it as him realizing his nature now.’

The reason why the ancient giants were synonymous with wisdom was simple—they knew a lot. Filewolf might have a perverted temperament, but he had a good idea of theology. He properly analyzed Grid’s current situation. He glimpsed the newborn god becoming aware of his divinity.

“Gasp... Gasp...” Filewolf’s breathing gradually became rough. It was because he was charmed by the Elemental King of Nothingness.

Nothing Stone was approaching.

Nothingness—the name was reminiscent of a void, but the reality was completely different. Nothing Stone left a mark every time it moved. Metal dripped and fell down. Filewolf saw that it was close to Grid's Greed. A pure metal that could become anything. Metal that was nothing because it could be anything.

'Therefore, it is nothing.'

Was this elemental king born under the influence of Grid? It was a free interpretation of the concept of nothingness, but in fact, it was right to call it the Elemental King of Metal, not Nothingness.

'Well, it doesn't matter.'

Perception was a different law for different individuals. Every being in the world felt different when they saw the same thing. There was no problem with Nothing Stone's identification of itself as nothingness rather than metal, even if it had the properties of metal. It fell into the category of individuality. If it had been a problem, Nothing Stone wouldn't have even been born.

[Yura, I want to contract with you.]

".....?"

Yura was startled as she was quietly watching the situation. Nothing Stone was born by counterattacking and absorbing the Elemental King of Light that had absorbed it. It was originally Grid's elemental. Naturally, it was right for it to contract with Grid. Yet it wanted to contract with her?

[The biggest reason why I could swallow the Elemental King of Light was due to your will.]

"Mine...?"

[Yes.]

From the time she saw the Elemental King of Light devouring Light Stone, Yura was hostile to and denied the Elemental King of Light. She perceived it as Grid's enemy. Her attitude was a great help to Nothing Stone. She was the contractor of the Elemental King of Light. She might be weaker than the Elemental King of Light and couldn't exert direct influence, but as its contractee, Yura's willpower to antagonize and deny the Elemental King of Light contributed to weakening it. The Elemental King of Light was caught in the restrictions of the contact and due to this, it couldn't extinguish Light Stone.

For Nothing Stone, Yura was as much a savior as Grid. Additionally, Nothing Stone had absorbed the Elemental King of Light in reverse. Dim traces of the contract that the Elemental King of Light had signed with Yura remained. It was impossible to contract with someone other than Yura. Of course, it was a problem that could be resolved if it broke the contract with Yura's mutual agreement, but Nothing Stone didn't want this. It liked Yura.

"I understand your heart. Thank you. However, you have to be by Grid's side, not mine."

Yura shook her head after hearing the long explanation. She believed that Nothing Stone was a match with Grid, not herself. Nothing Stone made a tearful expression.

[Do you hate me?]

It had an expression unlike the Elemental King of Light, who was merely a lump of light. A cloud-like appearance made of mercury. Two eyes and a mouth were painted on the 'face' that existed in the center of it. Throughout the conversation with Yura, they were curved in a half moon shape as it smiled. It was nice to see. At this moment, it looked like it was going to cry.

Nothing Stone explained to the flustered Yura. [I'm not any help to Grid. Grid already has Greed.]

"Ah..." Yura was immediately convinced. She had felt that Nothing Stone resembled Greed. Metal that thought and moved by itself.

[I look like Greed, but I'm different. I am weaker and I can't be smelted.]

Elementals were close to living things. It was impossible to make items using Nothing Stone as material. However, it wasn't stronger than Greed. Therefore, Nothing Stone decided it wasn't efficient for it to be with Grid.

Grid realized it. 'Nothing Stone should be considered a self-reformable metal.'

The utilization would be infinite. Meanwhile, Grid already had a skill that transformed matter. He also had Greed. Even if he made the most of Nothing Stone, the performance would be less than the items Grid created and used.

'It is much more efficient for Yura to have Nothing Stone.'

Grid had harmed Yura's elemental. He unavoidably felt greedy. Then what if Nothing Stone replaced the Elemental King of Light? He could relieve the burden on his heart. Furthermore, Yura would become much stronger in the future. It was incomparable to the time when she stayed with the Elemental King of Light, who refused to even communicate.

"Yura, please contract with Nothing Stone."

"...Is this really okay?"

"Of course."

The brightly smiling Grid pushed Yura's back. His gentle touch completely erased Yura's hesitation.

[Can you contract with me?]

"Yes... okay."

[I'm really happy!]

Nothing Stone smiled brightly.

Grid felt many emotions. A child who tried to communicate with him in the past—he was sorry that he didn't know until the end that it was such a bright child.

'Nothing Stone, let's be happy from now on.'

[In this way?]

“Yes, it is perfect!”

[Hehehet.]

Yura contracted with Nothing Stone. Nothing Stone contracted with Yura. In 10 minutes, they became friends. It was too good in the first place. Nothing Stone was able to transform into any item Yura desired. Powerful bullets were generated immediately. Due to the attribute of nothingness, there was no rejection of the Demon Slayer’s unique magic power.

As Nothing Stone wrapped itself around Yura’s body, Yura’s power increased noticeably. It was appropriate to express it as ‘Yura is armed with the Elemental King of Nothingness.’

‘I’m happy because she looks good.’

Yura’s expression was very bright. Her porcelain-like clean skin had a brighter look, giving her a much brighter appearance. It was a pretty appearance that she only showed to Grid alone when they were dating. Grid completely relieved the burden on his mind and confirmed the updated information of his sword dances.

[Overgeared God's Sword Dance Lv. 1]

[The sword dances of Overgeared God Grid.

The Overgeared God’s divinity increases physical attack power by 90%, magic attack power by 30%, critical hit probability by 70%, and critical hit attack power by 150%. All values will triple when using cooperative skills with a person you have a bond with.

- * This effect is only fully applied when a sword type weapon is equipped.
- * The increased physical attack power isn’t applied when a staff or orb is equipped.
- * Damage proportional to the willpower stat will be dealt if a weapon isn’t equipped.
- * The sword dances can be used without the footwork. However, the power of the sword dance will increase with every step due to the realization gained from the ‘Filling the Gaps Secret Technique’ (For each additional step, the damage of the sword dance will increase by 50%, 100%, 200%, and 400% respectively).[1]
- * The number of fusion sword dances that can be created is 20.
- * Every time the skill level rises, the number of fusion sword dances that can be created will increase by 5.
- * You can also create six fusion sword dances. However, the number of times a five or six fusion sword dance can be created is affected by the deity and divinity figures.
- ★All sword dances will have the nothingness attribute. It will always exert full power over all other attributes and can cut at any concept or phenomenon. However, there is no compatibility advantage.
- ★ Mana is consumed so you can activate/deactivate it.

Currently activated.]

The biggest change was the sharp increase in physical attack power and critical hit attack power. There was also a change in attributes.

The nothingness attribute—it differed from the other attributes that had compatibility with each other. He was always 100% powerful against any attribute. Instead, he didn't have the upper hand against any attribute. Even so, the strength was much greater. He exerted full power against all attributes and could cut concepts and phenomena...

This resembled the premise of 'any type of swordsmanship' which was highly regarded in Satisfy's worldview.

In fact, Grid had a title that he never expected.

[Conditional Sword Saint]

[Passive

There is nothing you can't cut while using Overgeared God's Sword Dance.]

'I can see why Braham's finishing move is Meteor.'

Nothingness couldn't always be the right answer. For example, the light and dark attributes had an advantage over all other attributes. Still, they were far from perfect. It was because light received serious damage from darkness and darkness from light.

On the other hand, the nothingness attribute had no obvious weaknesses. It was the best attribute for Grid, who could increase 'basic damage' to the extreme.

'Thus, it was adopted as the Overgeared God's divinity.'

A deep smile spread on Grid's face as he realized this.

Drop Dragon Pinnacle Link Kill Wave—he reconfirmed Chiyou's blessing that was in the six fusion sword dance.

[★When using Drop Dragon Pinnacle Link Kill Wave, Ultimate Martial Art will occur unconditionally.]

'Were you always watching?'

Grid looked up at the blue sky and bowed deeply to the waist.

A subject worthy of respect and admiration. The only one god he had seen, Grid sincerely worshiped Chiyou.

Another four days passed...

Unlike the first five days, the group was very busy. First of all, Grid trained to increase the hit rate of his new sword dances that 'lost their magic.'

'The reason I didn't have a clear edge over the Elemental King of Light is the absence of Detect Force.'

The magic to track targets—Braham’s secondary magic that was attached to the sword dances disappeared, making it more difficult to keep up with the speed of the Elemental King of Light.

‘Should I invest my stats as much as possible in agility for a while?’

As Grid was feeling troubled, Yura worked to cooperate with Nothing Stone and Filewolf focused on repairing God’s Circle.

God’s Circle—it was why the group visited the World Tree Forest. Now Filewolf felt the greatest responsibility. How did the Elemental King of Light die and a new elemental king was born? He didn’t understand it even after witnessing the entire process firsthand, but in any case, Filewolf dispelled his thoughts. He was fully focused on the task.

“.....”

Grid and Braham carefully observed the work of Filewolf. It was the moment when an ancient giant manufactured an artifact. It was an invaluable experience to witness a sight that hadn’t been seen for more than a thousand years. It was learning that would never occur again in the world.

The one who was enlightened was Braham, not Grid. There were too many concepts that Grid didn’t understand, but Braham properly demonstrated the power of the Duke of Wisdom. He solved and understood concepts he didn’t know in real time and acquired new artifact production methods.

‘I crossed it.’ Braham had a gut feeling. He had no choice but to acknowledge Paul’s talent in making artifacts. Yet at this moment, Braham surpassed him.

Chapter 1578

Laue didn’t want a situation that was out of control. It was due to the principle that he had to coordinate every situation himself.

“The power of certain factions shouldn’t be too strong.”

Laue started to be wary of the Muto Merchant Group.

The Muto Merchant Group—this force virtually monopolized commerce in the Overgeared Empire, and it was huge. It was even called the kingdom of King Muto. In fact, the status of the land they owned was enough to make a self-sufficient kingdom. The scale of the city owned by Kir, the first player to be a Merchant King, couldn’t even be compared to it.

“The Muto Merchant Group is our biggest ally and has adhered to the one-tenth policy. Do we have to keep it in check...?”

One-tenth—this was referring to the profits gained by the Muto Merchant Group when interacting with the then Overgeared Kingdom. Considering various circumstances, it was like abandoning greed altogether. It was at the level of mentioning unfair contracts, slave contracts, volunteering, etc.

Furthermore, Muto was a member of Overgeared Two. In the name of being a guild member, he had provided the personnel and information of the merchant group free of charge to the then Overgeared Kingdom. Nevertheless, it experienced huge growth due to the fact that it won the commercial power of the then Overgeared Kingdom.

Huroi was unconvinced by Lauel's decision to recruit another merchant group to keep the Muto Merchant Group in check.

Lauel explained it, "I don't doubt or dislike Muto. I am just concerned about a situation where Muto can't control his forces. Don't you know that there are presently more than 30 operators at the top of Muto Merchant Guild?"

"I heard that Muto selected pro-Grid personnel..."

"Politics have to proceed separately from individual emotions. In particular, merchants are more prone to corruption because their ultimate goal is to make a profit. Consider this. They dare to aim at Grid once they are able to exert sufficient influence in Grid's empire."

"....."

Huroi's face gradually turned red. The docile and meek eyes that were reminiscent of a puppy soared upward in a terrifying manner. For Huroi, the first subordinate of Grid, Grid was his only monarch and god. He felt anger just thinking that someone might swing at Grid.

"The inner stability of the Lion Merchant Group which you understood with your demonic talent... it is very solid compared to its size. There is a constant influx of external capital like a spring that doesn't dry out. It is hard to see it as solely relying on the forces behind it. I am wondering if perhaps the merchant group members aren't able to identify internal spies because they are focusing on foreign investment to attract investors."

The internal spy naturally referred to Huroi.

It was a few months ago. After disguising himself as a third person and infiltrating the Lion Merchant Group, Huroi was still pressing forward. He gained countless pieces of information but wasn't discovered as a spy. He was even promoted to an interim executive.

Lauel interpreted it as a type of luck. The management team was out of position due to the nature of the Lion Merchant Group, which was obsessed with external capital. It was easy for Huroi to be active because it was open to new people. Of course, it was possible because Huroi's camouflage and acting skills supported it.

He was truly an orator. It was his job to live and eat with his mouth.

"The Lion Merchant Group has invested heavily in every business it enters for the first time. If they get a chance to contract with us, they are likely to invest all the capital at the top. This will cover a significant amount of the construction costs of the hell elevator. Of course, you need to convince them Huroi."

"You don't have to worry about that part. The top leaders trust me unconditionally."

"As expected of Huroi... you are great like Grid's first confidant."

"This is the basics."

Start by making the Lion Merchant Group join the construction of the hell elevator, and then grow it into a counter for the Muto Merchant Group. Throw a competitor to instill alarm in the leaders of the Muto Merchant Group and seal it off from crossing the line.

The Overgeared Empire would gain a number of advantages from the overheated competition that the two merchant groups would create. There was no room for the two merchant groups to collude as one. Just like Huroi in the Lion Merchant Group, the leadership of the Muto Merchant Group had been planted with many moles over the years. They were able to induce infinite competition rather than collusion.

The justification was sufficient. It was physically impossible for one merchant group to handle the kingdom that had turned into an empire. The leaders of the Muto Group had no choice but to take this incident as a matter of course. They wouldn't dare to even feel disappointed.

'At the same time, it will be easier to access the background of the Lion Merchant Group. It should be considered killing two birds with one stone.'

Two days later, at the Lion Merchant Group...

"I think there is a way to open up trade with the Overgeared Empire."

"What...? Is this true? Hasn't the Muto Merchant Group monopolized the commercial rights of the Overgeared Empire? How is this possible?"

"It is due to the consideration of the top leader and vice-president who have always trusted me and entrusted me with this job. Trying to live up to your trust has become a great opportunity."

"Huhu...! You are like a lucky charm to this merchant group! I think it is our biggest luck that we were able to recruit you!"

"Hahaha!"

"Huhuhu!"

The host and the recipient of the hospitality.

Seomye, who was the host, was troubled. His heart was rotting unlike his smiling face.

'I don't want to get too involved with the Overgeared Guild.'

Seomye clearly knew why the Overgeared Guild's Huroi was planted as a spy.

One of the dozens of branch organizations of Inferno—the Overgeared Guild identified them and approached the Lion Merchant Group. The ultimate goal was to reveal the identity of Inferno. All information related to Inferno was destroyed and the only real person in contact with Inferno was the top leader of the Lion Merchant Group, but...

There was a limit to how much they could conceal the tail. The tail could be quickly seen if the Overgeared Guild got close. Of course, stepping on the tail was unlikely to do any harm to Inferno. They couldn't grasp Inferno just by digging at the Lion Merchant Group.

In fact, even Seomye didn't know exactly what Inferno was. However, Seomye was wary about the destruction of the Lion Merchant Group. What if the merchant group was damaged and abandoned by both sides as the Overgeared Guild dug into Inferno?

'Lion said there is no reason to be obsessed with the merchant group, but this merchant group is everything to me...'

Seomye was overwhelmed with nervousness. However, he couldn't express it and just laughed with Huroi.

It was after repairing God's Circle...

"I am really indebted to you."

Grid's group politely said goodbye to the World Tree. It wasn't just the elves. The elementals also gathered in one place to send them away.

[Hey, Nothing Stone. Come to the elemental world often to play. It is your home.]

[Yes, Fire Stone.]

[This crazy guy keeps going!]

[Isn't it better than not having a name? I like Pure Water.]

[Earth Stone. I like it. I listen to it.]

[I am Pure Wind... I don't particularly like it, but... I'm happy about Nothing Stone's heart behind naming me.]

[I'm going crazy...]

The atmosphere was friendly apart from the sighs of the Elemental King of Fire. The elemental kings released from the oppression of the Elemental King of Light felt free, while the elves found new happiness by eating Grid's dishes and opening their eyes to a new palate.

The World Tree who suffered a huge loss in the process of summoning the elemental kings weighed on Grid's mind, but... it was a problem that time could solve.

Grid planned to encourage the people of the world to worship the World Tree. As long as the elves allowed people to come and go from the forest, many people would come to the forest in the future to pray to the World Tree, promoting its recovery.

'The World Tree is unconditionally beneficial to people.'

The World Tree purified the air and mana of the surface just by existing. There was a future for humanity only if the World Tree was healthy.

-If you need my help, please feel free to come at any time.

"I won't just come when I need help. I'll often come to play."

-I'm happy. I hope you come to see me often.

The long journey was over.

“Ohh, this...”

“I didn’t expect you to really do it!”

Before returning to Reinhardt, Grid stopped by the Tower of Wisdom with Filewolf.

The brothers, Fronzaltz and Radwolf, were thrilled when they were handed the perfectly repaired God’s Circle. The giant’s divine object had regained its former glory. They were so thrilled that tears flowed from their eyes.

“You are the benefactor of our species.”

“Don’t do this.”

Grid hurriedly raised Fronzaltz who was bowing.

“It is just a small favor to you who have been fighting for peace in the world for so long. I am always grateful to you. Besides, it is Filewolf who repaired God’s Circle, not me.”

“The big help came from the World Tree who took the risk. It is something that is possible purely due to the World Tree.”

It was felt every time, but Filewolf was a really clever guy. He naturally shifted all the merit to the World Tree. It was to encourage the World Tree to recover more comfortably. He knew Grid’s wish.

‘It makes me have no choice but to like him.’

Filewolf was a pervert. Even at this moment, he was stroking his body. Nevertheless, the rejection became lighter and he was more likable.

The smarter the person, the better the interpersonal relationships.

This was actually just a prejudice.

Grid was shaking his head as he recalled the interpersonal relationships of Lauel and Braham when a notification window appeared in his vision. It was a message that his affinity with Fronzaltz was at the maximum. A message followed that the survivors of the wise giants started to respect the World Tree.

“It is four times more powerful.”

At the Overgeared God Church’s temple, Reinhardt...

Damian, the leader of the church, enjoyed the honor of being the sandbag for the Overgeared God. He personally experienced the difference in damage between the five fusion sword dance and six fusion sword dance, and couldn’t close his mouth. His sword dance also faced the evolution of the nothingness attribute. In line with Grid’s growth, the sword dances of the church members naturally grew.

Players who belonged to the Overgeared God Church were enjoying the fantasy-like experience of ‘becoming stronger even when staying still.’

“Additionally, the unconditional stun... it is a great strength.”

“Honestly, it is a scam.”

“Was it called Ultimate Martial Art? Will it have an effect on the sword dances of the church members someday...?”

“Um... I don't think so.”

Ultimate Martial Art was a favor that Chiyou gave directly to Grid. It would probably be 'only one' if he had to rate it. It was impossible for anyone other than Grid to get it in their lifetime.

'It would be a great help if my colleagues got it as well.'

It was just likely to be impossible. Grid left this regret behind and moved places. It was to the construction site of the hell elevator. Yura drew attention as she gave advice to the engineers by comparing the utility of the hell gate to the elevator.

'Beautiful.'

Yura was wearing a silver-white cloak that was the transformed Nothing Stone. The cloak that fluttered despite there not being any wind was gorgeous. It naturally attracted people's attention to the point where it seemed to be a means of cultivating Yura's beauty. There was probably no one who would expect that this cloak would turn into a suit that covered Yura's entire body, right?

Grid felt a subtle sense of superiority that he knew Yura's secret. Furthermore, he had great expectations for Yura. It was right to say that Nothing Stone was Yura's new item. It could be transformed into various forms, so it could be used like the God Hands. It could also be used as a weapon or armor, which was a huge strength.

Beyond transforming into separate weapons or armor, it could also be layered on top of the weapons or armor she was using. It was the Nothing Stone version of Item Combination that greatly increased the items' power.

'It will play a big role in the fight against Baal.'

The preparations for the hell invasion were progressing...

“.....?”

After looking at Yura happily for a while, Grid turned toward the cylindrical elevator running deep toward hell only to become surprised. It was because his back was cold. Mercedes was staring at one place with an expressionless face. He followed her gaze and found Yura.

“... Mer?”

“Yes.” Mercedes' expression when answering was as bright and pretty as a widely blooming flower. It was completely different from the cold expression a moment ago.

'Did I see it incorrectly?'

Grid shook his head and focused on the inspection. Before the hell elevator was opened to the public, the Overgeared Guild planned to operate 12 hell expeditionary units for the time being. There would be a competition in Reinhardt tomorrow to pick the 12 captains. It was a large-scale competition involving not only the Overgeared members, but also rulers such as the lord of the half-draconians, the orc lord, and the dark elf king.

Public interest was high because it was an opportunity to figure out the power of the rankers ahead of the upcoming National Competition. There was also a series of evaluations that the Overgeared Guild was somewhat arrogant for exposing their power on their own.

Even so, the Overgeared Guild didn't care. The Overgeared members participating in this competition had no plans to participate in the National Competition. Starting from this year, the National Competition would be played by the non-top members of the Overgeared Guild such as Coke, Ibellin, and Toban.

The items created by Grid before the Great Human and Demon War were so powerful that they alone could sweep the gold medals.

Chapter 1579

"Ahh... I was worried about what they were doing while construction was going on but once it is completed, it is spectacular."

"It is much nicer than when I watched it on the videos or screenshots."

"Right? It is said they recruited a lot of world-class architects."

Exclamations burst out nonstop from the endless procession. They admired the high-rise buildings that lined the city walls. As a player-ruled city, the capital of the Overgeared Empire, Reinhardt, had a modern atmosphere. The most striking thing was the high-rise buildings and large geometric architecture. Buildings in styles that were hard to see in Satisfy pleased the modern people's aesthetics and convenience.

At the same time, the traces of the effort that was put in to not harm Satisfy's times raised praise. Color, composition, topography, arrangement, and even lighting were used to create harmony between the Middle Ages and modern times. There was no sense of incompatibility at all.

"It is the feeling of coexistence between the past and the future."

"There are many directors trying to get it as the filming location for sci-fi movies."

"Huhuhut..."

Lauel felt very good. From the start until the city became what it was today, how hard had he been working for so long? He raised a large amount of capital, recruited the best architects in reality, and nurtured engineers in each field to actually implement the form of the city he had designed...

Reinhardt's current form hadn't been achieved in just a year or two. From the founding of the kingdom to now, it was more than five years in real time. It was a project that Lauel planned and implemented by selling his own assets and investing at his own expense. It was only recently when the level of Satisfy's engineers rose that the project could enter the implementation stage. He was already satisfied when he

saw the reaction of the people. It felt like he was being rewarded for all his efforts. The amazing thing was—

“It is even more spectacular from a high place. You’ve worked hard so far. Really.” Grid’s short praise and encouragement was more rewarding than the praise from tens of millions of people.

Lauel felt the trembling of his soul. “Indeed... I think the vessel called you is really good. It is probably because it is a vessel that I don’t have to worry about overflowing.”

“Uh... In any case, congratulations and thank you.”

“I also want to congratulate and thank you.”

They rejoiced that they met each other.

The two men leaned against the railing and bumped their fists together lightly.

『 Do you see the crowds on the streets? For the last three days, the number of visitors to Reinhardt has surpassed 100 million. Today’s captain selection competition, which unveiled the updated city, has attracted people’s attention. The new buildings that were covered in tents are all revealed, impressing countless people... 』

『 The city’s scenery is different. In a direct way, it feels like a mix of European tourist cities and New York. It also came together very naturally. Today, we have Michelangelo Stilioni as a guest. He is an Italian master who has participated in the Reinhardt renewal project. 』

『 It was five years ago when I received this request. I thought it was too much at first. They wanted me to design a city that exists in a game. As you know, I am over 80 years old. I hadn’t experienced Satisfy directly, so I was very unfamiliar with the request. But this... Hehe, I have the spirit of challenge. I purchased the capsule that day and accessed Satisfy. Geological features, environments, materials, etc. I had to check the conditions in the game itself, which would be different from reality, to determine if it was a commission that could be done or not. .』

『 Have you been working on the project since then and playing Satisfy all the time? 』

『 That’s right. I worked in reality based on the information I got from Satisfy. It was a fresh and enjoyable experience. The biggest attraction is that things impossible in reality are possible in Satisfy. The resources and environments that I could use are completely different. It was a lot of fun to design the city structure and architecture that was beyond my imagination. 』

『 You must have a very high understanding of Satisfy. Have you become an architect ranker already? 』

『 I am a warrior in Satisfy. 』

『 Haha, I see... Huh? A warrior? 』

『 I went on adventures in all types of places to find available resources and this was quite dangerous. The client gave me powerful escorts, but there were sometimes monsters that overshadowed the escorts. For example, mimics disguised as children or trees. 』

『 Ah... You fell into traps. 』

『 That's right. If I have to make an excuse, it couldn't be helped because I was in a position where I had to investigate this and that. There is a mysterious tree. How can I just pass by it? Don't I have to look at it myself to see if it could be used as wood? 』

『 You wouldn't have needed to open the treasure chests. 』

『 Cough... In any case, the client was flustered when hearing that I kept ignoring the escort's warning and dying. Then after hearing my explanation, he fully understood my position and supported me with items. As you know, my client is the famous Grid. 』

『 Ah...! The performance of the support items must be huge? 』

『 That's right. I smashed the monster that suddenly popped out of the earthen pot. Ah, earthen pot is slang for the head. The origin is Korean. In any case, the pleasure was immense. Thus, I changed to a warrior. 』

『 』

『 Do you see that pillar going through the ground? It is the rumored interdimensional movement gate known as the 'hell elevator.' Using this facility, you can freely travel between the surface and hell. The travel time is only 37 minutes... 』

『 Doesn't the freedom to come and go between the surface and hell mean that demons can use the elevator to go to the surface in reverse? 』

『 You don't have to worry about that part. According to the announcement by the empire's spokesman, Huroi, the hell elevator is connected to the Overgeared Empire's hell headquarters, the Crystal Castle. The Crystal Castle doesn't allow enemy intrusions. 』

『 Um... Most viewers, including me, are imagining the hell elevator like the name. Isn't the hell elevator literally an elevator that connects hells to the surface? It might be safe to be installed in the Crystal Castle, but isn't the passageway exposed to the outside and will be targeted by demons? 』

『 Are you imagining the elevator standing like a pillar in the center of hell? For example, a long pipe that extends from the ground of hell to the sky? Haha, that is possible, but it is actually different in reality. The hell elevator is just a name set for convenience. As mentioned earlier, the official name of the hell elevator is the interdimensional movement gate. 』

『 So it isn't an actual elevator? 』

『 Yes, the pillar buried underground is the entrance to the gate. It isn't hundreds of kilometers long and connected to the actual hell. In the first place, hell is another dimension. It isn't a place you can get to just by digging a tunnel. Haha. 』

Satisfy-related broadcasts had high viewership. The new Reinhardt, the hell elevator, the hell expedition's captain selection and events to match it—it was due to the variety of contents provided by the Overgeared Empire. It was just when public interest in Satisfy was high due to the upcoming National Competition so drawing people's attention was easier.

『 The apostles aren't participating in the captain selection? 』

『 Yes, the apostles can't leave the main base for too long. 』

Braham, Mercedes, Nefelina, and Sariel almost always stayed at Reinhardt. Braham was keen on magic tempering, Mercedes had to focus on escort missions, Nefelina was easily exposed to danger, and Sariel needed to be wary of going berserk. There were reasons for each person.

However, the public didn't know the exact circumstances and speculated that the apostles were constrained. They were so powerful that they had limits to the time they could be active. It was to consider balance. Grid's apostles were that powerful.

『 Then the strongest winning candidate is the lord of the half-draconians. 』

『 Yes, he will be one of the 12 captains. 』

The half-draconians.

It was a top species that many players hadn't even seen. Very few people witnessed them despite them being active in earnest from the Great Human and Demon War. It was because they were deployed to the most dangerous areas of operation during the war.

“Uwaaaaahhhhh!”

People were enthusiastic about the emergence of dozens of half-draconians. A species that helped defend the surface by fighting the demons alongside humanity. People felt a great liking for them who showed completely different actions from the rumors of them being vicious.

The last hundreds of years. Could it be that the 'cost' of the Saharan Empire in isolating and confronting the dangerous half-draconians was actually false rumors?

More people had such doubts. It was natural that many people doubted Saharan, which persecuted minorities and immigrants under all types of unknown reasons. It was unfair to the people of Saharan. The Saharan Empire's confrontation with the half-draconians was really for the peace of the continent.

“Captain... I feel strange.”

“Um...”

The half-draconians were fidgeting anxiously. It was an unfamiliar feeling they were experiencing for the first time in their lives. The cheers of the humans, whom they always ignored as inferior, created some changes in their hearts.

“I don't think it is bad to help the weak...”

The half-draconians didn't suddenly become nice, but they had the same emotions as humans. As proven by barking like a dog in front of Grid, they also knew how to feel fear.

It was during the Great Human and Demon War. The half-draconians saw the endlessly invading demons and realized the need for other species. They realized that the inevitable crisis of the half-draconians could only be overcome by joining forces with everyone. It meant they had learned the concept of cooperation. They came to develop the idea that living together wasn't too bad.

Then the cheers of the humans pouring into their ears started to drastically change their perceptions.

『 Many people are speculation that the Half-Draconian Lord Bunsdel might be comparable to the Overgeared God's apostles. Unlike Orc Lord Teruchan, he didn't succumb to Grid through force. Rather, they worked together for the peace of the world. 』

『 Look at the wonderful scales, tail, and sharp nails. Aren't they really good as warriors defending humanity from demons? 』

The moment the half-draconians emerged, the viewership of broadcasts in each country started to soar dramatically. By this point, the expression 'eve of the National Competition' was awkward. It was an interest comparable to the National Competition. It was ridiculous that the influence of the Overgeared Guild had grown to be as much as the influence of the S.A Group.

『 As many people expected, Chris isn't participating in this competition. 』

『 I think it is true that he changed to a hidden class and his level was reset. 』

『 He played a tremendous role in the Great Human and Demon War so he got a hidden class. 』

『 Then players who can be candidates for the 12 captains are Jishuka, Pon, Regas, Peak Sword, Katz, Vantner, Faker, Damian, and Euphemina. 』

Yura wasn't included. She was the Demon Slayer and would serve as the commander-in-chief of the captains.

『 Uh...? 』

People were looking at the faces of the participants, who gathered one by one, only to doubt their ears. It was because they heard the sound of barking. It came from Bunsdel's direction. Contrary to people's expectations, Bunsdel was politely prostrating himself in front of Grid. It was more than just politeness. Reverence could be felt.

'Did I hear it incorrectly?'

It happened as people were trying to deny this unrealistic situation...

"The captain selection competition will start now."

The competition started.

Chapter 1580

"Jishuka has S-grade individual ability. Ever since becoming the Bow Saint, she has no weaknesses because she is strong even in close-range battles."

“Most of Jishuka’s melee skills are counters, right? It isn’t easy to hit if the other person is vigilant in advance.”

“That is the problem of your fingers. Isn’t Jishuka different from you?”

“How dare a man who is nothing evaluate Dia hyung-nim’s fingers?”

“That is Player Diana. What type of nonsense are you saying?”

“Ah, really... Please don’t be ridiculous.”

One of the main sources of income for high rankers was the portrait rights. They earned high profits not only from their images being used in broadcasting, advertising, and photography, but also from their images used as secondary creations. A typical example was games.

Games—the cultural life that modern humanity preferred the most. People weren’t satisfied with just one Satisfy. It was an unavoidable physical issue. The premise was that they had to use the capsule to play Satisfy. It meant it was hard to do it in parallel with work. There was also a timeout. There was a limit to playing all day long during the holidays or enjoying a short break.

This was why video games and mobile games still remained in existence. People felt that games other than virtual reality games were somewhat trivial, but they couldn’t completely turn a blind eye to them. They used these games as a substitute. There were many games on the market aimed at them. Satisfy Online, Satisfy Mobile, Satisfy World, Satisfy National Competition, and more...

The secondary Satisfy games were released every year, some of which were significantly successful. The successful games had something in common. They purchased the portrait rights of high rankers and presented them as game characters. It was easy to think about it as existing sports players being characters in football games, basketball games, etc. Game companies broke down the rankers’ stats and personality using their own rules and interpretations. Then they were released as game characters.

The public immersed themselves in various games by playing characterized rankers. This was why ordinary people and even primary school students could analyze Jishuka’s skills like a pro. It was an era where information flooded in. Satisfy’s rankers had been exposed in countless media and analyzed. The public believed they knew the rankers well.

“Most of the games portray Jishuka as an overwhelming 1st tier character. Characters with her equivalent performance are Kraugel, Yura, Euphemina, Chris, and the demon king version of Damian. Do you know why?”

The hair that was parted 5:5 without an inch of error strangely attracted attention. Looking closely at their feeling of strangeness, they found that there were no wrinkles in the man’s suit. As evidenced by his upright back and sitting posture, he seemed to have nothing unnecessary in his actions and always insisted on the right posture.

“Isn’t it because she is so popular?”

Jishuka had maintained her top 10 ranking almost every year. She was undoubtedly a talented person, but she tended to appear as an excessively OP character in secondary creations. Sometimes it was hard to understand.

By this point, it was even questionable if the game developers around the world had selfish motives in regards to Jishuka.

It was true, but it wasn't the right answer.

"Popularity is naturally an important measure. However, if they were going to excessively overdo a character's stats because of popularity, Laella would be the immovable 1st tier character."

Laella is also a top ranked high ranker in the top 100. Furthermore, she wasn't inferior to Jishuka and Yura when it came to popularity. The strange thing was that her popularity had increased since she started dating Zednos... it wasn't unnecessary to analyze the reason except for entertainment media.

"The reason for Jishuka's high evaluation is her 'vision.'"

A man who wore glasses on his sharp nose gave the right answer. He was the CEO of Red Moon Thunderstorm Art. He was an emerging giant in the game industry and was directly in charge of the production of Satisfy Online, the biggest hit among the dozens of secondary Satisfy games.

"It is said that the eyes of the Bow Saint are in the sky. She has a vision that makes all terrain and covers useless, so she has the potential to play without restrictions in any environment."

"That huge potential was seen by game developers?"

"Yes."

Many directors reinterpreted Jishuka's abilities in different ways and integrated them into the game. The result was now. Jishuka was depicted as an OP character in almost every game.

"It is probably a lot of pressure. It is hard for her to use her strengths, especially on such an ordinary, flat stage."

Jishuka, who came onto the stage as the first player—people's expectations of her were different. There were many people who believed she was going to show her invincibility. It was almost distorted enough to resemble the feeling of inviting Grid. This was despite the stark difference between the secondary creations and reality.

"In return for getting benefits from the creations, she is going to suffer in reality..."

The reporters responded like it was a pity. Psychological pressure must be felt due to excessive expectations from the public. The condemnation she would receive if she didn't meet the public's expectations. It felt pitiful for Jishuka to take all of this. A young woman at the center of the world changing every day. Could she endure all types of hardships with her slender body?

It happened as the reporters in the audience were worrying...

-Yes, I'll work hard.

Jishuka was trying to calm her excitement. That's right. She was excited. Unlike the concerns of the gaming industry experts and reporters, she didn't feel any pressure. It was natural. It was because Grid was cheering for her. Above all, she was skilled. Her skills in the various secondary creations were no exaggeration.

“It is going to be so advantageous for me. It is a bit embarrassing.”

Jishuka’s opponent was Pon. He sat on top of his white horse and believed he had an advantage. It was a common sense judgment. Flat land with no cover. It was the ideal terrain for Pon, who had high speed mobility. On the other hand, it was the worst for Jishuka. An archer’s shooting was maximized only when taking advantage of cover and distance. Arrows that were obviously seen didn’t pose much of a threat to the opponent.

‘I just need to pay attention to the intangible arrows mixed in with the quick fire arrows and the counters she will try the moment I approach.’

In fact, the intangible arrows weren't a concept that could be countered just by paying attention. Recently, Jishuka shot more than 10 arrows at a time and it was hard to get a glimpse of them when she mixed the intangible arrows in between. In particular, the arrows that flew in a parabola were threatening. What if an intangible arrow fell over his head? He had to get hit no matter what.

The comforting fact was that the damage of the intangible arrows wasn’t very high. There was a limit to the damage because it was an arrow made of magic power, not an actual arrow. It was difficult to deal a significant blow to Pon, who was armed with Grid-made armor.

However, an arrow aimed at the fine gaps in his armor would lead to a rapid drop in health. For example, Pon judged that as long as he paid attention to situations where arrows could dig into the gaps of his helmet to poke his eyes and cause blindness, he could win without any major variables.

‘Jishuka, I’m not denying you.’

He was just affirming his own life.

“Hiyah!”

No one in the Overgeared Guild lived in vain. If there was such a person, they wouldn’t have joined the Overgeared Guild in the first place. Pon had always done his best. He might not have a legendary class but he tried so hard that he was proud that the character ‘Pon’ itself would become a legend someday.

The white horse carrying Pon gradually accelerated.

Jishuka, who was standing only 700 meters away—she felt very close to the white horse, who had been in a war with Pon. It thought she would be quickly reached.

Hihing!

This was its idea until an invisible arrow flew and hit its knee.

“Che!” Pon quickly jumped from the horse. It was a situation where he couldn’t keep his position on the horse due to the arrows that were aiming for his vital points. This was expected. In fact, there was no damage caused by falling. It was an expected situation, so he responded immediately with the falling method.

After rolling a few times, Pon raised himself and ran without delay. There was no hesitation of even 0.1 seconds. He remained focused so as to not lose the spear knight’s charge gauge, which increased his attack power as he ‘charged toward the enemy.’

“Spear Flower.”

Pon, who got off his horse, felt like a prohibition was lifted. He didn't hesitate to use a large-scale skill to neutralize Jishuka's arrows. The distance between the two people gradually narrowed.

‘Now I need to be careful of the counters.’

He had accumulated more damage than expected to reach this point. He had noticed it since a single arrow made his horse fall, but Jishuka's intangible arrows were much more powerful than they were during the Great Human and Demon War. Pon deeply realized it as he got closer and was in the center of a rain of arrows.

As much as he worked hard, others also worked hard. Time was equal to all. Others were getting stronger as he was getting stronger. Luck and talent were the qualities needed to jump over the ‘wall’ encountered and stay ahead of others.

‘This time, luck followed me.’

The tip of Pon's spear started to vibrate. It created a magnetic force that gathered all the pouring arrows together. The tip of the spear that pulled hundreds of arrows was bulging like a mace.

“Destroyer.”

Coincidentally, a week ago. He unveiled the new ultimate skill of the fourth class advancement of the spear knight, which was acquired from leveling up. It was also an unexpected skill for Pon himself. It was no wonder why he couldn't expect it. Pon was ranked 1st in the spear knight rankings. He was the pioneer. There was no way to know which level would gain a newly added skill.

Ever since last week, Pon was conscious of the competition and never leaked Destroyer. He used it secretly in a private training room to improve his proficiency, but he hid it from his colleagues. It was in order to win the competition.

His colleagues who gained hidden classes, the apostles of the Overgeared God, the rulers of their species, and the dukes of the empire—Pon felt like he was falling behind in strength. He was determined to prove his skills this time in order to protect his honor. He wanted to fight the rulers and overcome them. He ended up in the same group as Jishuka. Even so, Pon had watched Jishuka for a long time and didn't think she was worse than the other monarchs. Instead, he prepared for this day more vigilantly and thoroughly.

‘I will win today.’

He secured a new ultimate technique and favorable stage terrain. It seemed like the sky had given the day of victory to Pon. Pon had no choice but to win. This was a natural flow.

This was the case until the arrows that Destroyer pulled up and exploded were stopped in the air like it was a lie.

".....?!"

Destroyer was one of the precious counterattacks in Satisfy. Among those precious counterattacks, it was a type of super killer move that belonged to the ultimate group. It was a structure that attracted the

enemy's skills, magic, or projectiles and absorbed them with its own power, releasing them and returning them with several times the damage.

Yet it was defeated. It was also as soon as it was made public.

'A reverse counter...!'

A chill went down Pon's spine. He remembered that Jishuka was the Bow Saint. Any attempts to take the lead in regards to 'arrows' against the Bow Saint was a failure.

"Whole Sky Flower Rain."

Jishuka also unveiled a new ultimate technique. Hundreds of arrows stopped around her and a storm was projected in a dizzying manner onto Pon's bloated pupils.

'Rebellion isn't easy.'

Jishuka had always been Pon's captain. Maybe his luck was over from the time the match with her was decided. Pon thought this as he collapsed. It was the moment when one of the 12 captains was decided to be Jishuka.

"Waaahhhhhhh!"

"Jishuka! Jishuka! Jishuka!"

"...From today, Jishuka will be more OP. At this rate, she will soon be changed to a hidden character like Grid." Was he embarrassed when his prediction was wrong? In the midst of the cheering people, the CEO of Red Moon Thunderstorm Art explained.

A total of 16 participants.

The eight people who won in the first matchup would immediately become captains. The remaining eight people would face each other in the second match with the four winners taking the remaining four captain positions. It was a rule established on the principle that 'all participants are eligible to be captains.' The four who failed to become captains today would be captains of four additional units in the future.

Unlike the hearts of the participants, the competition didn't mean much. The reason why Lael held the competition was a type of show of force. It was already common sense in the world that the Overgeared Empire had the best power on the surface, but putting aside common sense, it was necessary to show it frequently. This was why military powers like China and the United States constantly held soldier inspection parades.

".....!" Lael was watching the event with a satisfied expression only to get up with surprise. The hot atmosphere of the venue became as quiet as a library.

"Crazy." Grid was also astonished.

On the stage, Orc Lord Teruchan collapsed in front of Katz. Katz' majesty as he wore the blood shed by Teruchan as a cloak was reminiscent of a great demon.

Beriache's Knight—it was the moment when the ancient being who served one of the three evils of the beginning was reproduced by a player.