

## Overgeared 241

### Chapter 241

Kraugel was just walking along. He couldn't think of anything in his behavior that would've caused wariness. So why was this person blocking the road? The farmer's attitude didn't make sense.

Kraugel felt doubts before making a reasonable guess.

'It's rare for people to come here, so they are unfamiliar with it.'

Reidan was isolated. The size of the desert might've been reduced by Grid and the Overgeared members' activities, but accessibility was still low. It was almost impossible to make it past the desert to Reidan until it was a party of rankers.

'There aren't any outsiders here so... It's natural for the residents to be wary of outsiders.'

Kraugel guessed the reason for the farmer's attitude and explained.

"I am an ordinary adventurer. I'm not a suspicious person, so you don't have to worry."

Kraugel's reputation across the continent exceeded 40,000. Since Satisfy opened, he had always maintained his first place ranking and cleared dungeons and quests faster than others, gaining reputation from this. At the present time, Kraugel was the only person who could use the Reputation Store.

'My high reputation will give confidence to that NPC.'

Kraugel thought the farmer would release his vigilance and step back. But what was this? The farmer showed an unexpected reaction.

"Based on your stride, you're not an ordinary adventurer."

"...!"

There was no change in Kraugel's expression. He smiled as always. But his mind was quite shaken.

'My stride is unusual? Is he referring to White Light Steps?'

White Light Steps was a skill Kraugel acquired after becoming the White Swordsman. Basically, it increased his movement speed and ability to adapt to terrain. It could also be used for dashing or evasion. The white light normally couldn't be seen unless under intense sunlight or clear moonlight.

'He isn't an ordinary farmer.'

The NPC in front of him, Piaro, looked like a farmer in every way. He wore a straw hat to protect him from the sun, dirty work clothes, and held a hand plow and hoe in his hands. It was difficult to recognize him as anything other than a farmer.

But you shouldn't judge people by appearances. Kraugel's sharp eyes examined Piaro.

"Who are you really? You aren't a normal farmer, are you?"

Piario wanted to answer Kraugel honestly.

'I have always dreamed of a confrontation with a strong person like you, who is also wishing to achieve the status of sword saint. Compete with me.' This was what he wanted to say.

"I..."

"Piaro! It's time to take a break! You worked hard in today's farming, so eat a lot!"

One farmer couldn't grasp the atmosphere and came shouting. It was really exquisite timing. Thanks to that, Piaro was embarrassed.

"You go eat by yourself." Piaro said with a frown, before trying to introduce himself again. "I..."

"Piaro! Administrator Rabbit asked if you have found another source of water yet?"

A soldier shouted at him.

'No, what was this?'

Why was he pestered every time he was trying to introduce himself? Piaro felt a little annoyed at being disturbed. But as a potential sword saint, it was funny that he would get irritated over something like this. He endured patiently.

"It isn't easy to find a source of water. Tell him that it will take more time."

"Yes!"

"I..."

The soldier left and Piaro tried to introduce himself again. However, Kraugel raised a hand and stopped him.

"I understand even if you don't say it. Aren't you a geomancer?"

The main task of a geomancer was to find things based on topography. Kraugel's sharp eyes were convinced.

"Don't worry. I have trained a lot of skills, but I have no intention of harming Reidan. I just want to stop by the general store. Then I'm going now."

"..."

Piaro completely missed the opportunity to introduce himself. Piaro was embarrassed by Kraugel's misunderstanding. But he quickly regained his composure. So what is he was misunderstood as a farmer or geomancer? It was enough if he could compete with someone strong.

"You can't enter Reidan unless you knock me down first."

Piaro's hoe moved in a line. It was a surprise attack, but Kraugel had a passive skill called Keen Senses. In response to Keen Senses, he used White Light Steps and avoided the attack. But the hoe was like a living snake. It changed the orbit and once again aimed at the target that it missed.

Kraugel's eyes sunk coldly. He had natural talent and trained hard, so he didn't easily allow attacks. There was a flash of something silver. It was the 'White Fang' sword that he acquired from one of the great demons, Drasion, who was defeated by Sword Saint Muller.

Chengkang!

The hoe and White Fang competed in strength. Piaro was excited when he saw that Kraugel wasn't pushed by his strength.

"Indeed...! You truly aren't ordinary!"

"You will regret it."

Kraugel's voice was cold. He was basically a good person, but he showed no mercy to his enemies. He couldn't turn a blind eye to Piaro's actions.

Kakakang!

White Fang slid down the hoe and stabbed at Piaro's thigh. There was enough momentum to cut off one leg entirely. Piaro defended himself with the hand plow.

Jeeeong!

The repulsive force caused Kraugel's body to rise high in the air. On the other hand, Piaro's feet were deeply embedded in the ground. Piaro shouted towards Kraugel, who had an incredibly angry expression on his face for someone who had just been a gentle youth.

"I am someone seeking the status of sword saint! I formally apply for a duel!"

"Sword saint...?"

Among the titles Kraugel had earned, there was the 'Sword Saint Candidate.' He naturally acquired the title while developing his swordsmanship through hunting and raids. After being nominated as a sword saint candidate, Kraugel was spurred to level up even more. He wanted to obtain a legendary class by becoming a sword saint.

His goal was to be the strongest, so he needed to have a legendary class. In the meantime, he had many opportunities to obtain a lot of hidden classes. But he was still in the third stage of the sword saint candidate. At least five stages were required to become a sword saint, but it wasn't easy.

'A farmer is seeking this realm... No, he's a geomancer.'

Kraugel's pride was upset. The person who talked about becoming a sword saint was holding a hoe and hand plow instead of a sword! Before talking about becoming a sword saint, he should start with a sword!

"You haven't grasped the subject."

Kraugel's sentences became shorter. It was due to his rage.

Taack!

Kraugel used a different application of White Light Steps and rushed through the air like a meteor. The power caused the wheat in the area to flatten and the ground to sink. It was the manifestation of 'Meteor Sword.'

'Wonderful!'

Piario's eyes widened. It wasn't an easy technique unless the body's physical abilities were raised to the maximum. It was here that Piario could demonstrate his stats. He crossed the hoe and hand plow, forming a perfect defense posture that the Meteor Sword struck.

Peeeeeeong!

Kraugel's white clothing fluttered like a flag swept by a storm. Kraugel's expression twisted while a smile appeared on Piario's face.

'My sword was blocked by farming equipment?'

'My whole body is grinning! This is such an exhilarating feeling!'

Chaaeng!Chaeeeeeng!

Syuok!

The battle between the two continued, with Piario disappearing from in front of Kraugel's eyes. Then he immediately appeared in the rear and struck.

'Drasion's speed...!'

Drasion might've been defeated, but he didn't completely lose his dignity as one of the 33 great demons. He was the strongest among all the bosses that Kraugel had raided. The highest ranking demonkin couldn't compare.

But a geomancer had a skill similar to Drasion. No, it was more than that. This wasn't a geomancer. He was a hermit. It would be nice if he helped Kraugel, but he actually started a fight.

Kaang!

"React to this!"

Piario was pleased as Kraugel blocked his attack like he had eyes in the back of his head. Piario was frantic with delight. He wanted to sing and dance.

'My eyes were correct!'

It was like any other day. He opened his eyes at dawn, trained with the sword before going out to the fields to do farming work. He enjoyed the pleasure of sweating. Then Kraugel appeared. Piario was aware of it the moment he saw the white-clothed man walking. This person was stronger than anybody he had seen so far!

"Hahahahat!"

He had just been a supporter in Grid's fight with the doppelganger. This duel would surely improve him. Piaro was filled with joy and plunged towards Kraugel. The hoe flew towards Kraugel's chest, who avoided it.

'I am quickly adapting.'

There was a clear pattern to Piaro's techniques. Based on a specific swordsmanship style, the hoe and hand plow were wielded like a longsword and dagger. Piaro stabbed rapidly and efficiently.

It was an easy style for Kraugel to read.

Chaaeng!

"Hah..."

Piaro let out a sound of admiration. It was amazing to see Kraugel attacking and defending with the sword in one motion. Kraugel provoked Piaro, who had light injuries.

"You are strong, but aren't you too lacking to become a sword saint?"

There were many titles that top rankers had attacked to Kraugel. God of Control, Lord of the Counter, etc. He had a reason for being so confident. Kraugel's quick brain and accurate predictions were able to quickly realize the enemy's attack patterns, while his exquisite reflexes and precise moves allowed him to counterattack. The more obvious the form, the easier he countered.

"I also know my shortcomings. That's why I applied for a duel." Up to now, Piaro had been using the imperial swordsmanship. It was the same as when he briefly fought Grid at Loran Falls. "But now it will be different."

Ching!

Piaro dumped the hoe and hand plow. Then he grabbed the sword that had been dropped in a corner of the field and took the posture of the Supreme Swordsmanship.

"Open your eyes!"

Swaeek!

It was extreme speed. The stab was like a fired bullet. Kraugel had a hole drilled in him and blood poured out. But he didn't allow it to be a one-sided attack. White Fang had curved outwards and slightly neutralized the stab. He accurately captured the narrow range that was the disadvantage of a stab.

"Then what about this? Supreme Swordsmanship 1st style."

There was a huge momentum that was like a mountain. Kraugel determined that he couldn't defend against this and attempted to use White Light Steps, but his movements were restrained by an intangible force. Therefore, Kraugel responded with a skill.

"Storm Sword!"

Kwa kwa kwa kwang!

The storm of white blades crashed into Piaro's slash. A powerful explosion shook the earth.

## Chapter 242

"He's particularly intense today."

"That means his opponent is strong. It is the first time I've seen anyone who can push Piaro like this."

"But who is that person? This is the first time I've seen him."

"I think he's Duke Grid's new subordinate?"

The wheat field was becoming more destroyed due to Piaro and the black-haired swordsman's duel. It was already a 50m radius of destruction. It had returned to the time when it was still a wasteland.

But there was no sense of confusion or frustration in the expressions of the farmers watching the confrontation. They were used to this. Piaro often sparred with the Overgeared members, so it wasn't just once or twice that the fields turned into a mess. Rabbit admonished him to shift places when fighting, but Piaro stood firm.

If he destroyed the field, then he would have more work to do. It was a bizarre logic, but the fields had officially been turned into a sparring ground. Piaro was a real labor addict.

"Bland, isn't that Piaro's share?"

There was also a noble among the farmers. Bland was caught eating Piaro's snack and cried out.

"Why is this Piaro's share? Piaro said he wouldn't eat!"

"I don't know..."

"Uhuh! Piaro said it! Then the person who eats it first is the owner!"

"..."

Bland had completely adapted to the farmer's life. It was hard to believe that he was a noble. He was covered in dirt and chewing on a potato. The farmers knew the circumstances of being taken hostage and felt compassion for him.

However, Bland was happy. He found these days 100 times more free and enjoyable than the time when he needed to be conscious of other people.

*Caw~!*

A roc flew in the sky. It had a large body and liked eating wheat. A couple of days ago, the monster had tried to loot the wheat field. But before it could reach the wheat field, it was hit in the sky. It was magic that Bland had strengthened through continuous duels with Piaro. Blood spilled out and the body of the monster fell to one side of Reidan's wheat field.

This place was peaceful today. There were few places safer on the continent than this.

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The power of Advanced Sword Mastery Level 7, his passive skill 'Sword Reinforcement' and the effect of various titles, including Sword Saint Candidate, overlapped with the power of Storm Sword and allowed him to cope with the Supreme Swordsmanship.

Piario laughed as the Storm Sword neutralized his strike.

'Huhu, it was offset.'

There were few people who survived against Supreme Swordsmanship 1st style. But Kraugel defended against it. Piario thought that Kraugel would at least get a serious injury.

'My condition isn't very good right now.'

As a great swordsman, he didn't cling to weapons or armor. He didn't feel the need to rely on tools. But at this moment, he felt regret about his tools. If he had been armed with a better sword, would the Supreme Swordsmanship 1st style be able to be blocked?

Shake shake.

Piario shook off his thoughts.

'Muller wouldn't blame his tools.'

It was laughable that a person aiming to be a sword saint would blame his tools. The purpose of this duel wasn't a one-sided victory. It was something that would assist his growth. He should be happy if his opponent held on for a long time.

'This technique is relentless.'

The remnants of the Storm Sword persistently clung to Piario. Piario had to waste time to defeat these persistent fragments and Kraugel didn't miss this gap. He used Mole Ascension.

Pahat!

White Fang moved through the earth. Piario also didn't stay still. He responded with Supreme Swordsmanship, 5th style.

Pachichik!

Colorless energy unfolded around him like a spider web. It destroyed the remnants of the Storm Sword, while at the same time, neutralizing Mole Ascension and covering Kraugel.

'Nine.'

Kraugel grasped the number of invisible energy. It was because of the power of Keen Senses.

'I can't block all of them.'

Kraugel's brain rotation speed was unmatched. He determined his actions quickly and protected his vital spots.

[You have suffered 8,830 damage.]

[You have suffered 9,200 damage.]

[You have suffered 9,050 damage.]

'The damage is more than expected.'

The legendary armor and artifacts that he gathered while raiding a lot of boss monsters weren't much help. Piaro had a power that made defense useless. Kraugel endured the pain and didn't delay his next attack. It was his turn to take off some flesh and bones.

"Moonrise Sword."

It was a skill that exerted its full power under the light of the full moon. But he was currently in a predicament and couldn't afford to not use it. The moon moved behind the sun.

Susuk.Sususuk.

Kraugel accelerated and activated the stealth function in the blazing sunlight. It was the effect of the white light, which utilized the refraction of light. Kraugel had amazing control skills, so this technique was perfect in his hands.

'Hah.'

Piaro had to concentrate in order to not miss the disappearing Kraugel. However, Kraugel wasn't emitting any energy. As soon as he disappeared from view, Piaro couldn't detect him. It was the moment when the man who reached the peak of two billion users met the strongest swordsman on the continent.

Piaro was tense. This was the first time he sweated in a long time. White Fang penetrated through his qi defense.

[You have dealt 12,400 damage to the target.]

The attack hit, but Kraugel's expression wasn't good.

'I can only deal this much damage, despite attacking a person wearing no armor... I could only exert 30% of my power.'

Kraugel was regretful about his attack. But he believed that he could change the flow with this. He went on the offensive against Piaro. However, the power of Supreme Swordsmanship was scary.

Piaro's sword started to intentionally harmonize with Kraugel's blade. Kraugel was forced back by the sword and forced to feel like he was caught in a large spider web. He couldn't even unfold his swordsmanship.

'Calm down. It doesn't matter if his swordsmanship style is stronger than mine.'

Kwaduduk!

Kraugel was aware of it. The world was wide and there were many monsters. He might be the strongest among users, but he knew that there were stronger monsters and NPCs that could trample on him. He was prepared to taste the bitter sense of defeat at any time. But he never dreamt that one day he would be defeated by a farmer.



'No, it hasn't been decided yet.'

Kraugel tried to suppress his sense of defeat. Piaro used the Supreme Swordsmanship, 3rd style. It wasn't a speed that could be followed with the eyes. A normal person wouldn't have been able to cope and would've been pierced through the heart.

But Kraugel was successful in responding. He instantly twisted White Fang.

Jjejeong!

The moment he defended against the attack, Kraugel realized that he had made a mistake.

'Force palm?'

Peeng!

Qi was delivered through White Fang. Blood poured out from Kraugel's mouth.

[You have suffered 18,900 damage.]

He lost half of his life. Fortunately, Piaro had discarded his sword. If it had been a sword then it wouldn't have ended well.

'I have half my mana left.'

He needed to arrange his power. Kraugel had many powerful sword skills such as Meteor Sword, Storm Sword and Moonrise.

Flash!

One of the ultimate skills of a White Swordsman, White Light Sword, generated a brilliant light. Piaro was disappointed as he lost sight of him. A white light covered him. Piaro felt a sense of crisis and shouted.

"Supreme Swordsmanship 4th Style!"

Something terrific happened. White Fang, which should've pierced Piaro, was sucked towards something like a magnet. The momentum of White Light Sword naturally collapsed.

Kudududuk!

Piaro's discarded sword attracted White Fang using a magnetic force.

'I can't resist this force...!'

The magnetic force was too strong, and control was useless. There were few options left for Kraugel. He couldn't lose this weapon, so he was forced to use 'Tearing the Sky.' Tearing the Sky was another one of the White Swordsman's ultimate moves. It consumed a lot of mana, so it was a skill he was reluctant to use.

Kwajajak!Kwajajajak!

White Fang was surrounded by the claws of a beast and started to resist the magnetic force, tearing it up. The skill proved why it was called Tearing the Sky.

[The durability of the White Fang has decreased by 213.]

'This is nonsense.'

His weapon's durability had decreased by two-thirds at once. This was dangerous. He hadn't been able to repair it for 10 days, so the low durability caused it to shine red. It might break if he kept on fighting.

'Even my mana is at the bottom. Meanwhile, my opponent is fine.'

Piario only lost one-fifth of his health from the attack. Moreover, he seemed to have a lot of cards left.

'Should I just stick with it?'

If he bought the Sweet Candy from the Reputation Store, all his stats would increase by 30% for 10 minutes. It might be a 30% increase, but his overall combat strength would become approximately twice as high. If he opened up the 'Super Sensitivity' effect, he might be able equal Piario.

'No, maybe I can win.'

But there was no need to take it that far.

'There is no reason to take a loss in a fight where I have nothing to gain.'

The Sweet Candy was something he used in the Drasion raid.

Muller defeated Drasion, Hell Gao, Lepir, and Kurson, so there were 29 great demons left. He didn't want to waste the candy that he reserved for use against dragon raids or the 29 great demons.

In the end, Kraugel made a reasonable choice. He admitted defeat.

"It's my defeat."

It was an absurd development. He never imagined that he would be defeated in a city he stopped at to dispose of his loot.

Piario shook hands with Kraugel and said. "It was a good fight."

"Why aren't you killing me?"

Kraugel questioned, making Piario click his tongue.

"I'm not crazy. Why would I kill a person for no reason? You would've died if I wanted to kill you."

He had the skill Fated to Perish. Kraugel couldn't believe his ears.

"You seemed to be filled with killing intent."

Piario picked up the sword he threw to one side of the wheat field and apologized.

"I wanted it to be a sincere fight. I'm sorry."

Kraugel asked a question. "What type of person is Duke Grid? Why is a strong person like you acting as a farmer in Reidan?"

It was okay if Piaro was stronger than him. He knew that was reality. However, he couldn't accept this strong person being someone else's subordinate. Aside from the problem of pride, it was too dangerous.

Piario frankly explained to Kraugel, who had a serious expression. "I'm not Duke Grid's subordinate. I am doing field work as part of training, and I receive a reward for finding water."

"Field work as training?"

Piario made a proposal to the confused Kraugel. "Why don't you do it with me? Together, we will be able to quickly grow stronger."

"Together..."

What were they going to do?

'It can't be.'

Kraugel made an uneasy expression. Piario pointed to Reidan's fields. "Work in the morning, spar in the afternoon."

"..."

"You will really become stronger. Do you want to try it for a month?"

'It is different.'

A notification window popped up in front of Kraugel, who was going to dismiss it as nonsense.

[A hidden quest has been created.]

'This...'

The quest was amazing. If he practiced together with Piario, he would be closer to becoming a sword saint.

'A month isn't a short amount of time, but...'

This was an opportunity to go beyond the wall. It was a different concept from simply raising his level, so it was worth investing time into. No, he couldn't miss this. It was a once in a lifetime chance at a jackpot.

"I understand. I will stay with you for the moment."

[The quest has been accepted.]

On this day.

A good farmer was added to Reidan. But this was a minor thing, so it wasn't reported to the higher ups. Grid was currently in the empire, while the Overgeared members weren't present due to the mine development mission or raids.

Grid and the Overgeared members didn't know that the first ranked user was growing the food they were going to eat.

Chapter 243

The shortest distance from Reidan to Titan was via Viscount Welkun's territory. But Grid headed there through Earl Zebra's territory. It was a huge delay of 10 days, but he didn't mind.

'Lael told me to stop here and get the Slaughterer's Eye Patch.'

Do so through any means, he had added. It meant the item called the Slaughterer's Eye Patch had great value.

'Slaughterer.'

According to Lael, the Slaughterer was an inhabitant of Earl Zebra's underground area. Earl Zebra's hobby was the torture and gruesome killing of half human, half beast species.

'But it was impossible to control.'

Half human, half beast. Depending on the circumstances of this species' growth, they could be either human or beast. It was a natural result that one of them would become an evil beast from Earl Zebra's brutal actions.

'I will know what type of person he is when we meet.'

Grid focused on hunting for four days and decreased his infamy, allowing him to move on.

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'This is a bad place.'

Earl Zebra's castle.

The entrance was exceptionally dark and desolate, reminding Grid of the entrance to a dungeon. It felt like once he entered, he wouldn't be able to get out again. It was a very bold person who would be able to step in here.

But Grid didn't feel any fear. He went forward without any hesitation. As his self-esteem grew, he became less cowardly. He wasn't the same as the person who used to pee at the sight of ghosts.

"Who?"

The soldiers guarding the gate looked at Grid suspiciously. The person was wearing a deep hat that covered his face. Grid took off the hat. His dignity stat was over 1,500 points and he had 25,000 continent reputation, so he was extremely influential. The soldiers seemed to see a halo around Grid. They felt a baseless confidence.

"Where do you come from?"

The soldiers misunderstood Grid as a high-ranking noble of the empire and became polite. This was a familiar transformation. Grid didn't feel much from it and responded with a nonchalant expression.

"I came to fight against the Slaughterer."

"Heok." The soldiers gulped. This person would fight against the fearsome Slaughterer!

'Furthermore, by himself?'

'The others all tried to bring more companions...'

"Are you serious?"

The soldiers asked with disbelieving expressions and Grid nodded.

"That's right."

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"Hrmm."

Earl Zebra's body weighed 0.1 tons. It wasn't pleasant to look at his belly fat and greasy face. He stroked his droopy chin and looked at Grid before speaking.

"What are you?"

Earl Zebra was competent and ordinary. He had no apparent talents. He became an earl because he inherited it from his father, just as his father did. But his eyes were good at looking at people. He often mingled with high-ranking nobles in the social circles, so he could feel the dignity coming from the other person.

In his view, Grid had a dignity compared to the royal family.

'However, he isn't any royal member that I know.'

In the first place, why would royalty come to this area to try and fight a monster? The royal family were like gods in this world, so it was natural for them to pursue safety.

'Royalty from a foreign kingdom?'

Grid replied to Earl Zebra.

"I am someone who will solve your problem. Isn't that enough?"

"Hah."

It was truly a cheeky tone. Earl Zebra didn't like it, as well as the fact that Grid didn't disclose his identity. But he didn't feel the need to dwell on it.

'Anyway, he will die.'

The Slaughter had evolved into an evil beast half a year ago. Like every day, Earl Zebra was torturing and killing somebody when a man watching the scene suddenly trembled and transformed. Now an uncontrollable monster lived under the castle.

It was serious. Earl Zebra was keen to defeat it. He used the most powerful knights and magicians in his family, hired top-ranking mercenaries and even recruited adventurers. But in the end, he failed.

So far, the number of people who had attempted to defeat the Slaughterer was over 800, and all 800 of them had died. That Slaughterer was strong. In addition, there was a problem with the environment. The basement was narrow and the Slaughterer was large.

The maximum number of people allowed in the basement was three. It was the crucial reason why the strongest knights and magicians in his family couldn't kill the Slaughterer. It was impossible for only three people to get rid of the Slaughterer.

But the black-haired man in front of him was alone.

"Kukukuk. Yes, yes. I understand. It doesn't matter who you are. Just please fix my problem."

The knights had already been killed by the Slaughterer. Four days later, reinforcements from the Red Knights would arrive. Earl Zebra wasn't expecting anything from Grid, so he spoke vaguely.

Then a quest window appeared in front of Grid.

[Fight the Slaughterer]

Difficulty: S+

In the past, Earl Zebra found a half man, half beast species from the slave market and purchased it. He enjoyed playing with his toy in the basement of the castle as he tortured them.

But eternal joy doesn't exist.

Zebra became bored of torturing stupid monsters who couldn't speak the language, and became addicted to torturing the 'good humans.'

He framed innocent people, made them prisoners, dragged them under the castle, tortured them, then killed them.

The half man, half beast watched this every day and became frightened, finally showing self-protective instincts. He opened the strength of an evil beast.

The Slaughterer has been subjected to numerous tortures and has the ability to grasp humans.

He is strong and dangerous.

He will become a great disaster someday if left unchecked now.

Quest Clear Conditions: Slaughterer's death.

Quest Clear Rewards: Black Quartz Earrings.

Quest Failure: Level -6. Reputation throughout the continent - 1,000.

'S+.'

It meant it was extremely difficult compared to S-grade quests. He heard that the number of participants who could participate in this quest was only three.

'Lael said that the Slaughterer can't be defeated unless Pon, Regas and Faker formed a team.'

But.

'I think you can clear it alone.'

Lael was always a reasonable person. Grid could trust his words.

“Let’s go.”

“Yes.”

The soldiers guided Grid down to the basement. They walked down a narrow staircase for three minutes before arriving in front of an iron door that was firmly closed.

“O-Over here.”

The sound of the Slaughterer breathing could be heard, so a soldier opened the lock with trembling hands. Then the soldiers ran away before the iron door opened. Grid was left alone.

‘No matter how strong, you must be weaker than Hell Gao.’

He had experience fighting against the strong evil aura of Hell Gao, a great demon. He acquired two new sword techniques. His control skills were rapidly rising due to Noe and Randy. Grid was in his strongest state since starting Satisfy. The greatness he showed the world at the National Competition? The Grid at that time was nothing compared to the current Grid.

Step step.

Grid listened to the sound of his footsteps echoing in the basement. The sound of the Slaughterer also entered his ears.

Kuoooh!

The Slaughterer’s appearance was horrible and sad. His skin was peeled off and rusted metal pieces were embedded deeply inside his body. There were also pieces of flesh out of place. These were signs of Earl Zebra’s torture. His face couldn’t be identified because he was wearing a mask, but he had an eye patch and only one eyeball.

“Poor fellow. I will kill you quickly so that you don’t suffer anymore.”

Grid pulled out two greatswords. A blue greatsword in his right hand and a jade greatsword in his left.

[The +9 Failure has been equipped. Due to the effect of orichalcum, your damage has risen by 30% in this dark place.]

[The +8 Doppelganger’s Greatsword has been equipped. One 50% of the weapon’s attack power is applied due to the double wielding penalty.]

Kuaaaaah!

The Slaughterer roared. When it saw the weapons, it was reminded of its nightmarish days of being tortured.

[The cry of the Slaughterer has caused fear.]

[You have resisted.]

[The persistent eyes of the Slaughterer will penetrate through your weaknesses.]

[You have resisted.]

Kung kung!

The Slaughterer rushed with its massive body. Then it randomly swung its weapon.

‘How crude.’

Grid had fought Randy, who copied Pagma’s power, a total of 83 times. In the end, the Slaughterer couldn’t pose a threat compared to the Randy.

Chengkang!

The jade greatsword blocked off the path.

Puok!

The blue greatsword pierced the heart of the Slaughterer. The thing that should be noted here was that it wasn’t one strike. Grid smashed the flesh of the Slaughterer with his weapons.

Kuaaaang!

The Slaughterer cried like a child struggling with pain. Grid cut the lower part of the Slaughterer with the jade greatsword while he used Pinnacle with the blue greatsword. The blue greatsword fell like a thunderbolt towards the Slaughterer’s chest. The rotten blood mixed with pus splattered out and covered one wall of the basement.

The Slaughterer was filled with rage. Why did he have to always suffer like this? He didn’t want to be born a monster! The Slaughterer seemed to be crying out. As his weapon fell towards Grid’s head...

Chaaeng!

Randy appeared in the shape of Grid and used Revolve.

“Let’s finish this.”

Suuuk.

Seven blades spread out in the air. The golden blades shone brilliantly in the dark basement and poured towards the Slaughterer. Noe was also active.

"I’m going to eat! Nyang!"

The huge mouth swallowed up the Slaughterer.

[Strength has increased by 1,831.]

Grid was reinforced by the stats received from Noe, and used Pagma’s Swordsmanship, Linked Kill.

The option effect of the Doppelganger’s Greatsword was applied, giving him a 20% increase in his skill damage. In addition, the ‘Five Joint Attack’s option effect of Failure and the Holy Light Gloves were activated. Therefore, Link Kill was reborn a his strongest skill.

[You have killed the Slaughterer.]



[108,950,109 experience has been acquired.] One-third of this will each be distributed equally to Noe and Randy.]

[The Slaughterer's Eye Patch has been acquired.]

[The Slaughterer's Mask has been acquired.]

[Three weapon enhancement stones have been acquired.]

[A Blessed Weapon Enhancement Stone has been acquired.]

The Slaughterer's eternal pain ended. Grid appraised the items that were dropped and understood why Lauel told him to come here.

#### Chapter 244

The material and shape of the Slaughterer's Eye Patch looked ordinary. It was just a black eye patch made of leather. Nothing special could be seen about the eye patch. The Grid of the past would've complained before appraising it.

"This is shit! I wasted 10 days just trying to get an eyepatch? Damn! What is this? Lauel, you \$%!#\$!"

He would say. He would throw a tantrum. But Grid was no longer so immature.

'Lauel wouldn't advise me to get this for nothing.'

There must be something about the item. An item wasn't something that could be distinguished with just the appearance. Grid had high expectations.

"Legendary Blacksmith's Appraisal."

[The blacksmith who became a legend can appraise items with an excellent discerning eye. If a hidden feature exists in the target item, it will be found.]

Ttiring~

[Slaughterer's Eye Patch]

Rating: Unique

Durability: 7/7

\* The skill 'Vital Spot Detection' will be generated.

The Slaughterer was tortured for a long time. He was also forced to watch the torture of countless people.

As a result, he has a high grasp of vital spots.

This eyepatch has been used by the Slaughterer for a long time and gained this ability.

Conditions of Use: None.

Weight: 0.1

[You have discovered a hidden feature in the item!]

[This is an item with a grudge. The wearer will be dominated by the impulse to kill and will become a reckless murderer.]

Curse. It was a cursed item. It was impossible to play the game normally if he was a senseless murderer. But Grid didn't care. Curse? He could just resist it.

"Lauel, this nice guy."

Grid was thrilled. He wanted to summon Lauel right now and embrace him. The Slaughterer's Eye Patch was a good item. No, it wasn't just at the level of good. It was an item that helped Pagma's Descendant take off the 'limit.'

'I didn't think I would get Vital Spot Detection.'

Vital Spot Detection. It was a top grade passive skill that only a small number of classes optimized for battle would acquire. The function was simple. As the name suggested, it identified the opponent's vital spots.

But this simple function had enormous power. If the vital spot was hit correctly, the probability of a critical hit would increase, causing bleeding, paralysis and other conditions. In other words, it meant that his attack power would increase dramatically.

'Lauel, he got something huge from Haynes.'

First ranked monster discerner, Haynes. He was able to predict the items that monsters would drop based on their characteristics. If Minor was a minerals detector, Haynes was an item detector.

'Lauel would've paid a lot of money to get this information from Haynes.'

Grid realized that Lauel's heart was deepening. He worked hard to overcome his master's weakness, so Grid's liking towards him increased.

'Lauel is busy with acting as the lord... I must surely reward his hard work.'

Grid promised happily as he wore the eye patch. Then something interesting happened. The left eye, covered by an eye patch, started to emit a dim red light. It was so weak that it was hardly noticeable in a bright place. However, it was clearly visible in dark spaces like this basement.

Lauel would be very excited when he saw this.

[Your hatred for humans is growing. You are filled with the urge to murder someone.]

[You have resisted.]

Grid was being provided a new perspective. Randy stood beside him and Grid could clearly see the 'core' of the doppelganger. It wasn't precise, but it was powerful enough to be able to grasp the target's vital points.

'I was worried that the vision on one side would be obscured. Fortunately, that isn't the case.'

It was a perfect artifact. Of course, that was on the assumption that the murderous impulse curse could be suppressed. Grid's joy was comparable to when he raided the pope and acquired the Holy Light set.

"Then..." Grid watched Noe. He had a cute tail of modest length. A white part at the end looked like a flower. "Your tail is your weakness..."

"I am the best demonic beast of hell. I don't have a weakness! Nyang!"

Noe bluffed and raised his palms. He seemed to be bewildered at his weakness being seen through. Grid thought about making Noe an armor to defend his tail. Then he turned his attention to another item dropped by the Slaughterer.

The Slaughterer's Mask. It was an iron mask designed to cover the right half of the face.

'The material is black iron.'

Unlike ordinary masks, this one was made from a good mineral. However, the design was dismal. The crying eye shape seemed the opposite of the smiling mouth shape. It looked like a clown's mask. There were even a few teardrops carved into it.

'I didn't hear anything about this mask.'

It was probably a small item that wasn't worth emphasizing. Grid didn't have much expectations.

"Legendary Blacksmith's Appraisal."

Ttiring~

[The Slaughterer's Mask]

Rating: Legendary

Durability: 39/39 Defense: 21

\* The skill 'Evil Spirit's Bloody Tears' will be generated.

It is a mask that reflects the sadness of the Slaughterer, a being who lived a painful life just before he was born as a half man, half beast.

Conditions of Use: None.

Weight: 55

[You have discovered a hidden feature in the item!]

[This is an item with a grudge. The wearer will be dominated by the impulse to kill and will become a reckless murderer.]

[Evil Spirit's Bloody Tears]

When hit, there is a 8% chance of releasing a blood flow. The ejected blood will paint the Slaughterer's mask with blood. When this happens 10 times, the mask will turn a distinct red.

At that time, the wearer's attack power will increase by 50% for 5 seconds.

“Crazy.” He reflexively exclaimed.

Grid was astonished. Evil Spirit’s Bloody Tears. It might be a conditionally triggered skill, but its power was excellent. It was a fraudulent skill. It was a legendary rated artifact.

‘Lauel didn’t mention this item because he didn’t know.’

It was proof that Haynes was still lacking. As a result, it was a huge profit. If Haynes knew about the existence of this mask, Lauel would’ve had to pay a bigger fee.

“Kukukuk.”

Grid couldn’t help laughing. Half his face was covered with a black mask and his left eye shone red, making him look like a demon. The level of oppression was much higher than when he wore the Frostlight Orc Chief’s Helmet in the past.

Lauel would be shocked if he saw it.

\*\*\*

“T-This...”

Earl Zebra ran after hearing the news and couldn’t believe the scene in front of him. The undefeatable Slaughterer was dead, leaving only a few body parts behind. This was caused by only one person!

“W-Who are you? Heok?”

Was this really the skills of a human? Zebra gulped after asking the question. He was frightened after seeing Grid in the bizarre mask and eye patch.

‘There is a red light in his eyes...’

He didn’t look like a human being at all. Maybe he was a real demon? Grid reached out to Earl Zebra.

“Give me the earrings.”

“U-Understood!”

Earl Zebra handed his most prized treasure to Grid. The Black Quartz Earrings increased the wearer’s intelligence by 15%. It was a beautiful treasure that had been passed down through his family for generations. He never thought there would come a day when he would really give this to someone. Now it was wasted.

‘I was supposed to give this to the knights who are coming to kill the Slaughterer... Shit, I need to send assassins after this guy.’

Earl Zebra’s greed caused him to make a wicked plan. But who was the greedy one? It was Grid. Grid could read Earl Zebra’s eyes instantly.

‘This ridiculous guy.’

Pisik.

Grid smirked. Then Earl Zebra asked him.

“W-Why are you suddenly smiling?”

“Cute.”

“What...?”

Earl Zebra’s face filled with anger. He was an earl of the great empire and over 40 years old, yet he was called cute? As if he was a pet? This was an obvious taunt.

‘This insane bastard!’

Earl Zebra didn’t like Grid at all. From the beginning, this young man had a nasty spirit. Earl Zebra wanted to brutally torture and kill Grid.

“T-Thank you.”

However, Earl Zebra had difficulty meeting the eyes of Grid, who killed the Slaughterer alone. First, he just wanted Grid to get lost. Grid equipped the Black Quartz Earrings.

[Intelligence will increase by 15%.]

‘This is the reward for a S+ grade quest.’

In fact, an accessory that increased intelligence by 15% was very valuable. Any magician would covet it. But thanks to the effects of all types of titles, Grid’s intelligence already exceeded 1,000 and he didn’t need it. He was able to have enough mana to use all his skills and didn’t use Dainsleif anymore, so magic power wasn’t that important.

‘I will use this until I can find a craftsman who can make an accessory out of blue orichalcum.’

Grid threw a question to Earl Zebra, who was avoiding his gaze.

"Do you think about weak people?"

“...?”

It was a confusing question. Earl Zebra wanted this ghastly man to disappear. But he didn’t dare express his heart.

"That is something I don’t know."

He was a powerful man, born as the son of an earl. Tens of thousands of people bowed before him, and thousands of soldiers obeyed him. Weak? He had no interest in such things.

Grid nodded. “Right. You wouldn’t know about such a thing."

He was never subjected to one-sided bullying. Grid knew there was nothing as painful and terrible as that. He had no desire to save Earl Zebra, who had committed a crime against his people and tortured people for his own entertainment.

“You, aren’t you weak?”

The red eyes swept over Earl Zebra’s entire body. Zebra’s instincts screamed at him and he stepped back.

“W-What? What are you trying to do?”

Grid shrugged.

“What am I doing?”

Then he just left? Earl Zebra was relieved to hear Grid’s footsteps leaving. He waited until he couldn’t hear the footsteps anymore, before running to someone else.

Chapter 245

“Come out!”

Earl Zebra ran into his great hall and shouted. Then nine assassins showed up. Earl Zebra absolutely believed in the Black Arrows group. The assassination ability of those who served Earl Zebra’s family for generations was unmatched. There was no history of failed assassinations.

Earl Zebra ordered.

"Kill the guy who was here a little while ago! Get me the Black Quartz Earrings back!"

“Yes.”

The assassins suddenly disappeared. Earl Zebra was facing them, and even he wasn’t sure when they disappeared. Earl Zebra felt relieved by their excellent skills and smiled evilly.

‘It doesn’t matter what a monster that guy is.’

What opponents couldn’t those assassins kill? Earl Zebra imagined the situation where that person would die and was very satisfied. The moment he was humming.

“Nyang.”

A small cat entered the great war. It was a cat with smooth black fur. Only the end of his four feet and tail were white as snow.

‘C-Cute!’

Earl Zebra thought as he watched the cat. The cat’s charm was so absolute that even a crazy human was captivated by it. Earl Zebra was deceived for a moment. He felt a desire to keep that cat around him for the rest of his life.

But it was only for a moment. Earl Zebra barely managed to regain his spirit.

“What are the guards doing? Why can’t the guards keep a beast out of here? Do you really want to die?”

“I-I’m really sorry.”

The soldiers who rushed over at the noise were pale. They had obviously been standing guard fiercely. It was impossible for even an ant to enter. How was a cat able to get in?

"Why are you just standing there?"

The soldiers tried to get rid of the cat. However, the cat was very agile, despite its chubbiness. It jumped around the great hall like it was its own home.

“Heok?”

Earl Zebra and the soldiers’ eyes widened. They witnessed small wings appearing on the cat’s back. They looked closely and saw a small horn on his forehead.

“M-Monster...!”

Earl Zebra belatedly grasped the identity of the cat and shook his hands. But his dull hands couldn’t prevent the aggressive cat’s dash.

“Kiyaaah!”

Papat!Pa pa pa pat!

The short paws of the cat swung at lightning speed. Earl Zebra was filled with a terrible pain. He felt a burning sensation from his face.

“Kuaaaaak!”

A sharp scream rang out. Earl Zebra’s face was bloody like it was mangled.

"H-Hik."

The soldiers were terrified. It was obvious that Earl Zebra’s anger would fall on them, who couldn’t prevent the monster from entering.

‘He is going to torture us terribly!’

‘W-What should we do?’

‘Why did this happen?’

The soldiers fixed their eyes on their spears as they talked. Then they crept towards Earl Zebra, who was filled with a lot of agony and pain.

“Y-You guys...!”

Earl Zebra lived a life that wasn’t filled with suffering, simply because he was born of a noble lineage. Today was his first time experiencing a major injury since he was born. It was also because of his subordinates.

“How dare you try to harm your master! Don’t you know that this is a felony? Your limbs will be cut off and you will all die!”

Earl Zebra cried out. But the threat didn’t vanish. The soldiers raised their spears. Earl Zebra wanted to avoid this and quickly changed his attitude.

"If you put down your spears now, I will forgive you and give you a great reward! So please calm down!"

He tried to negotiate, but it didn’t work.

“Do you think that we’ll believe your words? We know that you tell dozens of lies to those you torture!”

“We hated you from the beginning! You human butcher! It’s better to get rid of a guy like you!”

“One of the girls you framed and killed was my relative! She was only 15 years old! You son of a bitch.”

The anger that had been suppressed was being expressed. If they didn’t kill the earl, they would die anyway. The soldiers were well aware that there was no turning back. They stabbed Earl Zebra with their spears.

Puk!Puk puk puk!

“Y-You...! You guys! Kuheook!”

It was the end of the human who was more cruel and wicked than a demon.

“Nyang.”

The cat, who was the culprit of this situation, slowly escaped from the great hall.

\*\*\*

“Was this what you aimed for?”

On the outer walls. Kiki had reported the situation in the castle after she used her Hawk Eyes skill.

Veradin shook his head.

“No. I just wanted to obtain the bones of the Slaughterer.”

Veradin couldn’t know why Grid, a duke of the Eternal Kingdom, came to visit Earl Zebra. But he could roughly guess the reason why. The Slaughterer was a bounty monster for many rankers. Maybe Grid came here to raid this place? He predicted Grid’s presence and didn’t report it to Earl Zebra. As a result, Grid raided the Slaughterer.

Thus far, it was as planned. But he had no idea Earl Zebra would be killed. In fact, it was the soldiers who killed Earl Zebra, but the black cat that caused the incident obviously belonged to Grid.

“It’s surprising.”

Was Grid acting for the people of another kingdom that weren’t related to him? A strange smile appeared on Veradin’s face.

Kiki questioned him, “What should we do? There will be an uproar.”

The empire wouldn’t stay silent after a noble was killed. A large scale investigation team would be sent and the atmosphere would become bloody for a while. That wasn’t the only problem. The son of Earl Zebra was still young. In addition, he grew up watching his crazy father and was emotionally unstable. In short, he was easily manipulated. It was doubtful that the other nobles would give a territory to a lacking boy. It was expected that a bloody faction strife over the territory would occur.

“Veradin? What are you thinking? Wouldn’t it be better to report Grid right now?”

“Dismissed.”



“What?”

Kiki couldn't believe it. Grid was an enemy. Now only did he hurt their guild, he damaged Earl Zebra's territory, the home of their guild. Yet Veradin was intending to let Grid go?

Veradin explained the plan. "We will arrest the soldiers who killed Earl Zebra and get a huge achievement. Then we can increase our influence and make the son of Earl Zebra a lord."

He was drawing a big picture.

“This is an opportunity to go further.”

Veradin believed that this work would allow him to devour Earl Zebra's territory in the future. He would give this estate to his master, Agnus.

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The outskirts of Earl Zebra's castle.

Grid was waiting for Noe.

‘I wanted to kill him myself.’

Earl Zebra was a wicked man who shouldn't be saved. Grid had gone through many adventures, but it was the first time he saw such a brutal person. But it was too dangerous to kill the earl himself.

It would be difficult to access Asmophel if the empire was chasing him, and it would also put the Eternal Kingdom in a difficult position. If he knew that Veradin was a noble of the empire, Grid wouldn't have touched the White Wolf Guild either. But Grid didn't know the truth about Veradin, so he couldn't feel glad that Veradin didn't report him.

"Grid is a good person? Then you punished a bad person?"

Randy started questioning the division between good and evil. Grid was satisfied at the friend who grew up everyday and replied.

“I'm not good.”

That's right. Grid wasn't a good man. He wouldn't sacrifice his life unless it was for his colleagues. But he had the minimum of conscience. He couldn't turn away from those who were in fear from Earl Zebra. If he lacked strength, he might've turned away for his own comfort.

‘I'm no longer a weakling.’

He was willing to help someone if he could help. But that story was based on the assumption that he would come to no harm. This was Grid's evolution. It wasn't quite justice. However, he wasn't really reprehensible.

“Rather...”

Grid sensed uninvited people approaching their hiding spot. It wasn't difficult to detect them because he had over 1,400 insight.

“These guys, they were sent by Zebra.”

The criteria that Grid used to judge the skills of an assassin was Faker. These assassins weren't a match for Faker. In other words, Grid didn't acknowledge most of the assassins in the world. It wasn't just arrogance.

His position was right. An assassin's weapons were their secrecy and swiftness, but it was virtually impossible for them to threaten Grid with his high insight and unreasonable defense. They needed to have at least Faker's skills to threaten him.

Susuk.

The assassins were unaware that they would be detected. After steadily narrowing down the distance, they aimed their daggers at Grid's neck. At that moment.

Chaaeng!

Golden blades flew and blocked the assassins' daggers.

“Aren't you using cute tricks?”

“...!”

The assassins' expressions didn't change. But they were incredibly surprised.

‘He noticed our surprise attack? It couldn't be.’

They tried stabbing again, but it was useless.

Puok!

"Kuaaaak!"

The golden blades were thrown by someone unknown and flew again, sticking into the assassin's thigh. A notification window appeared in front of Grid.

[Critical!]

[You have dealt 1,590 damage to the target.]

‘There is only this much damage, even if it's a critical attack.’

Pavranium was the strongest mineral. If he made a weapon using pavranium, the attack power would be beyond Failure. But right now, the blades made from pavranium couldn't exert their full strength. They were made with only a small amount of pavranium, so the attack power wasn't very good.

‘Minor must find the western labyrinths quickly.’

He wanted to secure more pavranium. Minor had a lot of responsibility. As Grid was thinking this, the assassins became wary.

‘This person has a companion!’

Grid was obviously alone when he came to the castle. But now he had a girl with him, as well as a hidden guard. They had to find the guard hiding somewhere that was throwing the golden blades. But they couldn't detect the person.

Grid smiled like they were funny and pointed towards the sky.

"Above."

"...?"

At that moment. The assassins looked up at the sky and witnessed the golden blades moving alone.

'Artifact!'

The astonished assassins looked back at Grid.

"Keok..."

"Ugh..."

Three of the assassins were skewered with a blue greatsword.

"What is this?"

This was too absurd!

"Are we being hunted?"

The past Grid and current Grid had something in common. He showed no mercy to his enemies.

"Don't waste your time and die obediently."

An iron mask that covered half the face. At first glance, it seemed to be crying, but now it was smiling. The assassins experienced the greatest horror since they were born.

Chapter 246

'Are we going to die like this?'

The assassins were trained to maintain their composure under any circumstances. Surveillance, assault, assassination, etc. Their tasks required secrecy and patience, so suppressing their emotions was the most basic skill.

But now the Black Arrow assassins lost their composure. In other words, they were clearly terrified. This was evidence that their status was low. An excellent assassin would've kept their composure, no matter how strong their target.

"Your master is a dog and you're just at the level of a gangster."

Step, step.

The target moved closer and approached them. The assassins were good at using a dagger, so they welcomed close combat, but this situation was an exception.

'There is no chance when facing him from the front.'

Their colleagues were killed in the blink of an eye. The six assassins quickly determined and spread out. Then they threw their daggers.

Pa pa pa pat!

Dozens of daggers flooded towards Grid. It seemed like there was no room to evade. The assassins naturally thought that Grid would bleed. They had an extremely poor imagination.

Suuk.

A jade greatsword was calmly and quickly pulled out. Then dozens of daggers flying at Grid were sucked into the centre of a vortex. This wasn't the end. Then the direction of the vortex changed and the daggers popped out like bullets.

It was Pagma's Swordsmanship, Revolve.

Puk!Puuok!

"Keook!"

"Kkuk!"

The effect of 'skill damage increased by 20%' made the daggers bombardment much more powerful than when the assassins threw them. The assassins hit by the daggers became a hedgehog.

'Being hit by my own attack!'

It was serious. The eyes of the assassins swayed like a lamp in front of the wind. Grid triggered Blacksmith's Rage and wielded the blue greatsword like a lightning bolt.

Seokeok!

Two colleagues lost their lives at once. The bodies and heads were separated, turning them to ash at once.

'He is too strong...!'

The assassins were well aware of the fact that the Slaughterer was strong. But they were confident that they could kill the Slaughterer if all nine assassins did a pincer attack. However, the number of people who could access the basement was limited to three.

It meant that the target was a monster who had taken on the Slaughterer alone. However, the nine of them could beat the target if they fought together. But that wasn't it. The target's strength far exceeded the assumed range. He might even be a match for the famous Red Knights.

The Black Arrows that followed Earl Zebra and committed many bad acts were wiped out on this day.

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'If I aim at a vital spot, the chances of activating the Bisect skill is much higher... Is it? I need to experiment a bit more.'

Grid defeated the Slaughterer and gained a lot of experience. He defeated nine Black Arrows assassins with an average level of 240, and his level rose due to the additional experience. 288. Based on his level, he was now within the top 500 rankings.

But that strength? His rank had nothing to do with it.

‘My agility is too low.’

Grid invested all 10 stat points into agility, but he still felt that it was lacking. Piaro’s strength and agility was a 1:1 ratio. Grid had used him for reference and invested all points into agility for several months, but his ratio was still a mess. He had invested most of his stat points into strength until he met Piaro.

Grid currently had 2,810 strength and 1,606 agility. He had to make the ratio of these two stats 1:1. If he wanted to use the ideal swordsmanship that balanced strength and speed, he needed to gain at least another 120 levels.

‘My vision is dark.’

But did he feel desperate? No way.

‘I have to concentrate on hunting every time I take a break.’

Right now, Grid didn’t care about overworking himself. He would be rewarded for all the effort he put in. He was well aware of this fact.

Noe flew to him. "Praise the best demonic beast of hell! Nyang!"

Based on his expression, he had completed his task properly. This was the end of Earl Zebra’s reign.

“Then let’s go to Titan.”

Now Grid didn’t need the hat. The mask and eyepatch hid his features, so his ID was automatically hidden.

Grid moved forward without hesitation. He met monsters on the way to Titan and gradually adjusted to dual wielding and using the Vital Spot Detection skill. After the battle, he recreated the contents and sought how to overcome his weaknesses.

The journey to Tital would take approximately a fortnight. Until then, Grid’s goal was to reach at least level 291.

Randy and Noe became surprisingly friendly.

“Noe! Cute!”

“Kyang! Pat the best demonic beast of hell on the head! Stroke my chin as well! Kyang!”

\*\*\*

The 31st knight, Idan. He was the youngest of the Red Knights. He was only 14 years old when he joined the knights and now he was 23 years old. He wasn’t from a prestigious family.

But nobody could ignore him.

Who would make fun of him, one of the empire's strongest knights?

"Hrmm~"

The scene where Earl Zebra was murdered. There were dozens of nobles and knights present. They stood like stone statues and watched Idan. On the other hand, Idan didn't look at them. He questioned the seven soldiers who murdered Earl Zebra, as well as the circumstances around his murder.

"Um~ I see."

After a while.

Idan made an expression like he finally grasped the situation. Then at the place where Earl Zebra was killed. In other words, he sat on the throne in the great hall. Nobody pointed out that this behavior was unbecoming.

Idan ordered.

"Destroy them and their families."

"S-Sir Idan!"

The seven soldiers who murdered Earl Zebra cried out. Didn't he say that their families would live if they cooperated with the investigation? It was a ruthless command! Idan smiled at those who were looking at him with eyes full of pleading and resentment.

"I understand the reason why you needed to kill Earl Zebra. In addition, I know that Earl Zebra deserved to die. But a crime is a crime. I need to enforce the law."

"Why are you doing this? You promised to spare our families!"

"That was if you cooperated."

"We willingly cooperated!"

"Yes~? When?"

"...!"

The soldiers realized it. Idan was an evil person. He was just as vicious as Earl Zebra. It was chilling to see him laugh as he sentenced dozens of people to death. Idan watched the soldiers who were dragged to the execution area before turning to the nobles.

"Did you say you were Baron Veradin?"

"Yes."

Veradin was called by Idan and took one step forward. Idan observed him closely before smiling.

"You accidentally witnessed the murder of Earl Zebra at the hands of his soldiers and arrested them... Aren't you wonderful?"

It was blatantly sarcastic. The situation was excellent enough to make Veradin stand out, and Idan clearly smelt it. Veradin didn't shake. He bowed while maintaining a calm expression.

"I might've been able to save Earl Zebra if I arrived at the scene a little sooner. I am sorry."

Idan's eyes darkened. Veradin was a pretty tough guy.

"Do you know anything about the killer of the Slaughterer?"

Just before Earl Zebra was murdered, someone had killed the Slaughterer by himself. Idan suspected that these things were related. However, it was a problem because Veradin, who was presumed to be in the center of the case, remained consistent until the end.

"This is all the soldiers said. He was alone, and was a black-haired man full of grace. I didn't see him myself."

"Yes, I understand."

That was the end. Idan left without looking at Earl Zebra's body. Then he looked at direction where the killer of the Slaughterer had headed.

"Who is he?"

The empire's judgment division determined that the Slaughterer was an A+ grade monster. Three black knights weren't able to defeat it, so he was sent alone. He didn't like the fact that he was pushed to do this troublesome thing. Now he was irritated because the situation had become more complicated.

'A person who can handle an A+ grade monster alone isn't ordinary... The seniors won't like it if I return without investigating the person's identity.'

"Hah."

He could only sigh.

\*\*\*

"Is this authentic information?"

"Yes."

"Okay, now is the perfect time."

Zibal was second on the unified rankings. The Snake Guild, led by him, was growing rapidly, but he couldn't help feeling anxiety. The total number of guild members was 275 and their average level exceeded 230.

At least 100 of them were in the top 1,000 rankers. He had recently achieved his goal of becoming an earl of the Haken Kingdom. He would be the first user to become a king. But there was a big stumbling block.

It was none other than Grid. Grid had become a duke at once due to the large-scale golem invasion. It was highly likely that Grid would take the title of first king. Zibal couldn't sit back, and instead made a plan.

Seven guilds had joined forces to keep Grid and Reidan in check. The leaders of the seven guilds pledged to cooperate. They would suppress Grid. But there was a problem.

Grid and the Overgeared Guild were too big. How could they invade Reidan when there was a group of monsters completely dominating the 10th to 40th places in the unified rankings? If the seven guilds combined, it might be possible to kill the Overgeared members, but they would have to take huge damage. It would turn into a loss for them.

Zibal and the leaders of the seven guilds couldn't carelessly take action. They were worried for the past few months, but had to wait.

Then a chance arrived. According to a scouting team dispatched to the western part of the Eternal Kingdom, Grid had recently disappeared and the Overgeared members had left Reidan to develop a mine.

Currently, Reidan was completely vacant. What if they invaded and destroyed the facilities? It would be a huge blow that Grid would find difficult to overcome.

"Head to Reidan right now. Put on a helmet or mask to hide your identity and move as secretly and quickly as possible.

At the same time, Reidan.

"This is Grid's city...!"

The sight of the endless fields and walls made Damian overwhelmed. He had travelled to many big cities during his adventures, but in terms of size, Reidan was the best.

"Being a duke is really great! Ruling this great city! Amazing! The population must be at least over 100,000!"

Damian looked around at the surroundings and admired it.

Were visitors unwelcome? Two farmers suddenly arrived in front of him and asked him a question.

"Who are you?"

"...?"

## Chapter 247

Damian was just walking along. He couldn't think of anything in his behavior that would've caused wariness. So why were these people blocking the road? The attitude of the farmers didn't make sense.

Damian thought about it before making a reasonable guess.

'They don't like me because I'm an otaku.'

Damian's equipment were engraved with all types of phrases. The phrases written in gold looked very nice, because they had a sense of harmony with the white color of the gear. However, this changed after seeing the contents of the phrases.

I love you Rin-chan, beautiful Isabel-chan, cute Luna-chan, Rebecca's Daughters forever, and so on.



The contents of the phrases were things that invited disdain. Some people were so disgusted that they caused a fight because they didn't want to see it. In reality and in games, an otaku was a target of hatred and derision.

But Damian didn't give in. He wanted to freely express his love for Rebecca's Daughters. He couldn't understand why he should be criticized for the act of loving someone so purely and enthusiastically.

"I'm a paladin of the Rebecca Church. Why are you asking me who I am?"

Damian's attitude was cold.

One of the farmers smiled. "You don't seem to be an ordinary paladin."

Damian exclaimed. "Yes! I am not an ordinary paladin, I'm an otaku paladin! So what? Do you want to beat me up?"

"Otaku? What is that? Anyway, won't you fight me? The divine power that I can feel around you is very interesting compared to all the paladins and priests I've met so far."

"This..."

Damian finally figured out the situation. These farmers weren't mad at him for being an otaku. They were just crazy. A farmer who detected his powerful divine power and wanted to challenge him? It was safe to say that he had crossed a line.

'He's crazy.'

Damian felt compassion for the farmer. Then he sincerely prayed.

"Goddess of light, please bless these poor people..."

After a moment. Damian finished praying and said goodbye to the farmers.

"I hope that you will restore your spirit under Goddess Rebecca's divine favor. Then I'm going now."

Damian didn't look back. He didn't want to encounter these crazy farmers for long, so he hurried towards the gate.

'I need to meet Grid as soon as possible.'

He needed to ask Grid to seal Lifael's Spear. He just wondered if the greedy Grid would do it.

'I will save Isabel-chan, even if I have to give him all my possessions.'

He would devote his soul for her. It was when he was making a pledge again.

Peeng!

There was a loud sound. Damian turned his head to see a hoe flying towards him.

"Heok?"

There was clearly killing intent. An overwhelming qi. It would cause great damage if he didn't block it. Damian instinctively sensed and hurriedly raised his shield.

Chaaeng!

A strong shockwave occurred as a result of the hoe and white shield colliding. The whole wheat field shook. Damian was appalled.

'Strong!'

It was incredible attack power. It was enough to make his spine chill, the first paladin of the Rebecca Church. As he was feeling confused, the farmer pulled back his hoe and threw off his straw hat.

An NPC called Piaro. He looked amused as he held a hoe in one hand and a hand plow in the other.

"Good defense. I'll have to use Supreme Swordsmanship."

Piario was excited. First there was Duke Grid, the Overgeared members, Kraugel, and now Damian. He was excited by the fact that he met powerful people who couldn't be overpowered with the Imperial Swordsmanship.

'I have to deal with him seriously, like when I am fighting Kraugel.'

When he competed with Duke Grid at Loran Falls. At that time, Piario hadn't been in the proper mental state. He wasn't able to demonstrate his skills properly. But after being with Duke Grid for the past few months, Piario had become emotionally stable. Now he could exert his full skills.

"Then let's start."

"I don't want to!"

Damian quickly rejected. There was no reason to fight. But Piario was stubborn.

"You must take me down in order to enter Reidan."

"What's this?"

Damian thought it was ridiculous. It was a city where a farmer was the gatekeeper. The other farmer standing silently suddenly whispered to Piario.

"Please do it moderately. I also want to fight with him."

He was Kraugel. He had been working in the fields and training with Piario for a fortnight. Thanks to Piario, he had certainly become stronger than before. Now he only lost half his health when confronting Piario. Even that monster was looking forward to a fight with Damian.

An exceptional person who rose to become the number two paladin, despite being a paladin of the Rebeccan Church. But one day, he suddenly disappeared from the rankings list, so there were rumors that he obtained a hidden class.

That person was Damian. Damian was famous, so Kraugel was interested in news about him. But Damian himself was unaware that he was a celebrity. He was only interested in Rebecca's Daughters.

Anyway, that celebrity was currently in a desperate crisis.

The continent's strongest swordsman, Piario.

The peak of two billion users, Kraugel.

He was destined to fight those two in turn.

\*\*\*

The Ice Flower Guild was one of the axis of the seven guilds. They had 30 members. They were few in number, but all 30 members were elites in the top 100 of the magician rankings.

In particular, their guild master Bondre was an overwhelming talent. He was the first ranking magician and 11th on the unified rankings just a month ago. Thanks to the Overgeared members, his ranking was pushed to 17th. However, there was nobody who would disagree that he was strong.

Ah, there was Grid. In the National Competition, Grid had logged out Bondre in four seconds.

But that was then and this was now. After his disgrace in the National Competition, Bondre struggled to acquire more S-grade magic. He poured all his money, time, and effort into it. As a result, Bondre was now much more powerful than he was in the National Competition.

He had three S-grade magic spells. Nine months later, the Second National Competition would be held in France, his home country. At that place, he planned to thoroughly get revenge on Grid.

"I will log you out in three seconds." But before that. "Today, I will shatter your estate."

That damn Grid was the lord of Reidan. Bondre would make it a vacant lot. The development of the city that occurred in the last few months would be in vain! Cruelly! Perfectly!

"I will make you crumble! Kuhahahaha!"

"The disease has returned."

The guild members talked among themselves as they watched their guild master having an outburst. Their guild master was often like this after being defeated by Grid in the National Competition. They missed his past appearance.

"Huh? What is that?"

There was a strange forest filled with thorny vines. This was currently the west of the Eternal Kingdom. The desert would soon appear in front of everyone. The Ice Flower Guild suddenly stopped marching.

It was because there were hundreds of people in the distance. They were blocking the forest's narrow path.

"Don't they seem like refugees?"

"Their timing is dirty."

The guild was close to Reidan. However, the 900 refugees made their march slow down, so the Ice Flower Guild became irritated.

"Just kill them."

Bondre witnessed it and spat out terrible words. The guild members winced and calmed Bondre down.

"Our infamy will shoot through the roof if we kill so many people. It will be impossible to play the game normally for a while."

"Yes, Master. Please take it easy."

"Shit! Shit! Shit! I want to smash Reidan right now!"

"Look! We can fly in the sky!"

Bondre was losing his mind because his enemy's empty house was right in front of him. The guild members tried to calm him down. They could fly in the sky using magic.

"Let's fly through the sky until we escape the forest. How about it? Okay?"

Bondre barely recovered control and nodded.

"Sigh... Okay. It's unfortunate that mana will be consumed, but it's still less than killing those people."

Float.

The moment Bondre was using Fly along with his guild members. A hand sprang out from a thorny vine and grabbed a guild member.

"...Eh?"

The Ice Flower Guild couldn't grasp the situation. They were stunned as they received a notification window.

[Your party member Ren has died.]

"What?"

"This is crazy!"

What was going on? Bondre aimed magic in the direction that the mysterious hand protruded from.

"This bastard!"

Kwajajajak!

The ice bombs rapidly cooled the vines and destroyed them. Then Ren's dead body came into view.

'Where?'

They had to find the person who killed Ren. Bondre and the guild members searched the area, but they couldn't find the enemy.

Puk!

"Kyak!"

[Your party member Silver has died.]

Bondre and the guild members paled. A companion standing near them had died and they still couldn't detect the enemy. It was like there was a ghost.

'Assassin.'

A strong assassin that the level 303 Bondre couldn't detect, that was powerful enough to kill magicians whose levels were in the late 200s. Yes, like Faker.

'Faker?' A chill went down Bondre's spine. 'It can't be.'

Was it really Faker? If so!

Bondre hurriedly exclaimed. "We shouldn't be here! Get out of the forest now!"

An assassin was the counter of a magician. Magicians had low health, defense and agility, so they couldn't afford to go against the swift assassins. It was worse in a dark place like this with many obstacles. They had to move to a wide area. The Ice Flower Guild made this judgment and instantly used Haste. It was to escape the forest after increasing their movement speed.

But the person in the darkness had no intention of letting them go. He threw daggers aimed at the magicians.

Chapter 248

If the Overgeared members were asked who they trusted the most, they would answer without hesitation: Faker.

He gazed into the shadows that his companions couldn't see and, with the tip of his weapon, destroyed any who was brave enough to try and harm his companions. His reason for being silent was caution, and his remarks became reality.

"You will die here today."

Five minutes after the battle commenced, Faker finally revealed himself. A terrible anger appeared on Bondre's face as he exclaimed, "Faker, this guy!"

It was only five minutes, the amount of time it took to go to the bathroom. That was it. During that period of time, 11 of Bondre's colleagues were killed. The dagger had a dispel function that made the shields of the magicians useless.

"What are you doing here? How did you predict that we would be going through this place? No, how did you know that we were going to invade Reidan in the first place? Did you plant a spy?"

Spy? There wasn't enough manpower in Reidan for that. It was just a coincidence. Faker had to avoid the gaze of the empire while he was transporting the refugees. He chose this narrow thorny vine forest as his route and encountered the Ice Flower Guild.

This could be called luck. Did he need to explain all of this to Bondre? No.

Bondre's face turned red as Faker remained silent.

"Damn bastard! Are you ignoring me now?"

Chwachachachak!

Six ice pillars emerged from the ground. He had used S-grade magic a little while ago to completely devastate the forest and make Faker reveal himself.

It was the moment when magic of the same level was manifested. Bondre stood in the cold air and smiled as he said, "This is one of the spells I prepared to kill Grid. Can you hold on?"

Ice Dragon's Fury: an S-grade spell.

Six huge ice pillars swirled in the air like a flight of Dragons.

"I'll kill you before trampling on Reidan!"

Kwa kwa kwa kwang!

The six ice pillars attacked Faker from all directions. Power, speed, and range. Nothing was lacking. The only downside of this magic was that it consumed a large amount of mana. However, it wouldn't completely deplete the mana of a top grade magician.

'As long as his cover is gone, he will die! Come on! The person who took the 11th rank that was originally my position!'

Bondre was sure of his victory. He knew he could neutralize an assassin's swiftness with a wide area magic spell.

Don't give an assassin time to avoid. The relatively weak attack power compared to a single damage skill? It didn't matter. Assassins had low health, just like magicians. Once hit by the spell, the only result was...

"Huh?"

The confident Bondre's eyes shook, refusing to believe the spectacle unfolding before them.

Left.

Kwajak!

Right.

Kwajajak!

Left again.

Kwa kwang!

This time it was up. While six ice pillars rotated like the saw blades in a blender, Faker moved so fast that only afterimages were left behind. What about the cold air that caused the speed to drop?

'How high is Faker's agility?'

In fact, it wasn't just a matter of agility. High speed that couldn't be controlled was akin to having a pearl necklace around a pig's neck. But Faker was in complete control of the speed that transcended common sense. No, it wasn't just at the level of control.

'Godly co...!'

Godly control. It was a modifier that only existed for Kraugel so far! As Bondre was in shock, Faker expressed his gratitude to Grid.

'I always admire the items you make.'

Wind God's Leather Armor. It was the armor that Grid made based on the production method that Faker had obtained. Originally, this armor increased the wearer's agility by 6% and all speeds by 12%. However, Grid's recreation of the armor increased agility by 8% and all speeds by 15%.

Susuk.Sususuk.

The afterimages increased.

One of the third assassin classes, 'Master of Swiftess,' the class that required the highest level of control among all the classes in Satisfy. After meeting Grid's items and Faker's control, its capabilities were increased by 200% .

"Unbelievable!"

The six pillars gradually lost momentum, while Faker's speed increased. Anyone looking at him was likely to feel dizzy. The guild members tried casting magic in order to limit Faker's movements.

"Shit!"

Daggers flew and stopped their casting. There wasn't a pattern, but he avoided the big magic that dominated the whole area while stopping other magic casting.

'This is a scam!' It was strange. Faker's skills were more than rumored. 'Weren't the original rumors exaggerated? So why is it the opposite?'

The duration of Ice Dragon's Fury finally ended. Bondre hurriedly exclaimed, "Use the spells in your orb!"

They could use the spells stored in their orbs without any casting. But the magicians were reluctant to use it. It was a last resort. Now it was time to use their last resort.

Pepeng!Pepepeng!

Kwajik!Kwajijik!

Magics with all types of attributes immediately appeared and aimed for Faker. As he flew around the ice pillars, the spells struck his body.

"That's it! We did it!"

No, it was a misunderstanding. Their spells had hit an afterimage, not Faker's body. Faker's condition was relatively fine.

"This damn thing!"

Bondre cursed as Faker only suffered minor damage. He invoked 'Double Casting' and used two spells at the same time.

Kuuong!

After minimizing Faker's activities radius using an ice barrier,

Jjejeok!Jjejeok!

Then he unfolded the Ice Spider Web. The other guild members cast spells at the same time.

'What will Faker do now?'

The Master of Swift class had clear limits. It couldn't move through the shadows like a Master of Shadows, nor did it have defense abilities. The only advantage was speed, so it was possible to disable the class if speed was suppressed.

Peeng!

Faker threw smoke bombs.

Due to the thick smoke, Bondre and the magicians were unable to see Faker.

Bondre laughed.

"Kuhahahaha! This guy! You can't do anything with the Ice Spider Web pressuring you!"

The magicians used magic of the wind attribute. A gust of wind blew away the smokescreen, revealing Faker who would be stuck in the Ice Spider Web...

"...Where did he go?"

Bondre and the magicians were stunned. How did he conceal himself on flat ground without any cover?

'Hide!' It was clear that he dug a tunnel to hide in. 'Such a pathetic method!'

Bondre used detection magic.

"...Eh?"

Sweat trickled down Bondre's cheek. The detection magic was telling him that Faker was behind his back.

Suuk.

A sharp dagger aimed towards Bondre's neck. At the same time, Faker released the white hoodie he was wearing.

"Invisibility cloak...!"

At this moment. The Ice Flower Guild were reminded. Faker was an Overgeared member. In other words, this meant that Faker was equipped with the power of items.

"Shit."

Bondre cursed as the dagger was stuck in his neck.

Under the blazing sun. Red flowers bloomed on the gleaming spider webs.



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Bunny Bunny.

He was once the world's best gaming BJ. The average number of people who watched the broadcast in real time was close to 150,000. But that was a story of the past. Currently, the average number of viewers had dropped to 30,000.

In order to overcome this crisis, it was necessary to renew his viewers and gain some publicity. He needed new broadcast material that attracted people's attention. More provocative material.

Bunny Bunny used his network and was able to obtain the best information that the seven guilds would unite and attempt to invade Reidan.

"Okay. Good video quality, good angle."

The fortified city, Patrian. Beyond it was the west of the Eternal Kingdom.

Bunny Bunny activated the video recording feature and filmed the Yak Guild and Zeraph Guild. The two guilds had approximately 200 members. Bunny Bunny checked that there was nobody around and whispered as he relayed the situation.

"Can you see them? Their IDs can't be confirmed because they are wearing masks, but considering their features, they are surely the Yak Guild and Zeraph Guild. The information I obtained was true."

Bunny Bunny was cautious.

"Oh, the two guilds have started moving. I will follow from a distance so that I won't get caught."

It wouldn't be good if he was discovered. The seven guilds didn't want it known that they united and were going to invade Reidan. Why? It was shameful. The seven guilds that represented Satisfy had joined forces to invade just one city.

"The master of the Yak Guild, Bubab is covering his face, but it is easy to guess his identity. It is because his size is as big as a bull. Huh? What is this situation?"

Bunny Bunny was following the two guilds at a reasonable distance when he suddenly stopped. Dozens of knights were blocking the march of the two guilds.

"Wow, what is this? Why are the knights stopping the Yak Guild and Zeraph Guild? Isn't it curious? Right? Should I go closer? Okay. I will risk my life and narrow the distance in order to get rid of your curiosity."

Bunny Bunny was a level 209 assassin. He used Stealth and hid behind cover, so both guilds couldn't detect him. In the first place, they were busy concentrating on the knights.

"What are you guys? Why are you blocking our way?"

"What is this? Huh?"

The guild members questioned the knights, but they stayed silent. They stood like an iron wall to block the guild members. In the end, Bubab couldn't bear it and went forward directly.

"Why are you preventing us from using the gate? If you don't give a reasonable explanation, I will break through by force."

At that moment.

"You have no right to ask questions."

A middle-aged man with white robes emerged. The name above his head was Ashur. The master of the city.

'Earl Ashur...!'

Earl Ashur was one of the 10 great magicians on the continent. Why was such a big person blocking their way?

Earl Ashur asked the curious guild members. "Why do you want to go to the west?"

"There is no reason to answer the question."

"Reason?" Ashur snorted. Then he released his overwhelming magic power.

"Eek...!"

The faces of the guild members turned white. The strong magic power felt like steel crushing their bodies. Earl Ashur's golden eyes sunk.

"It is natural for you to answer my questions. There is no need to discuss why. Understood?"

"Ugh...! What the hell was this? Why is this happening?"

It was absurd. Bubbat couldn't understand the current situation. Earl Ashur raised his voice and asked again, No, he ordered.

"Tell me why you are going to the west."

The magic balls installed throughout Patrian were Earl Ashur's eyes and ears. Through the magic balls, Earl Ashur already knew that they were going to invade Reidan. Nevertheless, it was a type of game to listen to their answers.

Bubat lied. "We are just going hunting..."

"Hunting? Kukuk, that is an obvious lie. Another lying bastard from the past just came to mind."

Earl Ashur's precious son was being held hostage in Reidan. He had no intention of letting these guys go, when they might harm his son.

"I'll give you a choice. Return the way you came, or have your bones buried in my city."

Chaeeeeeng!

Dozens of knights drew their swords, while the soldiers on the wall pulled back their bowstrings. Earl Ashur's expression was arrogant as he stood behind them. Bunny Bunny was thrilled as he recorded the situation while hiding.

'Doesn't it seem like Earl Ashur is Duke Grid's ally?'

One of the continent's 10 great magicians was loyal to a user! This was a scoop above all other scoops. He was convinced that if he broadcasted the current scene, he could get a lot of viewers.

Chapter 249

The Yak Guild's master, Bubat.

He combined bold judgments and powerful CCs to be called Satisfy's best initiator. The battlefield was always favorable to his allies when he was fighting in the lead. His nickname was 'Yak who Promises Victory.'

But at the time of the National Competition, Bubat was helpless. He didn't live up to his reputation and disappointed people. Was it because he was in a bad condition? No. It was because he met Yura and Grid in succession. In the case of Yura, his CC was destroyed by her excellent physical abilities. Grid was too bad because he resisted all CCs.

Bubat was frustrated because it couldn't be helped. Now it was a few months later. Bubat tried. He raised his level during hunting, acquired new skills, and maximized his control. He had the ability to fight against Yura and Grid. If he were to face them again, he had the confidence to grab hold of their ankles.

However,

"Dammit...!"

Before he met Yura and Grid, he once again experienced helplessness and frustration. For Bubat, reality was terrible.

Earl Ashur ridiculed him, "Your skills are pathetic."

"Ugh!"

Bubat couldn't say anything to the Earl's words. Earl Ashur was really brilliant. Regardless of his skill, his ability to respond with appropriate magic was beyond the scope of common sense. In this battle, Bubat was already wounded, while Earl Ashur didn't have a single speck of dirt on his white robes.

One of the continent's 10 great magicians. A monster who deterred war just by being present. In modern society, he was equivalent to a nuclear warhead. However, he was more than the rumors.

'Far stronger than Yura.'

It wasn't an exaggeration. If Earl Ashur and Yura had the same level and stats, Earl Ashur would have the advantage. There was the named NPC compensation effect.

Named NPCs that had a profound effect on the worldview and story of the game, like Earl Ashur, had all their abilities (attack, defense, magic power, health, mana, skill cooldown, etc) set higher than a user.

This was a type of protection system applied as a fixed effect, regardless of stats. Earl Ashur and Piaro were both named NPCs, but because it was divided by grade, Earl Ashur was defeated.

"I'm not someone that small fries like you can dare to look at."

Kurururung!

In one hand, lightning.

Suuuk.

In the other hand, Earl Ashur manifested water vapor. The destructive power of a magician who mastered various types of attribute magic became more evident when dealing with a large group.

"I will bury your bones in this city. Your bodies will be fertilizer to help the roses bloom."

Kwarururung!

The water vapor spread and a thunderstorm formed. The Yak and Zeraph Guild members that were in range were electrocuted. Arrows from the soldiers poured from above them like rain while the knights continued the onslaught.

"Ohhhh!"

The top-ranked players, including Bubab, fought desperately. They overcame the electric shock as soon as possible and smashed the knights. In particular, Bubab's activities were dazzling. He was like an angry yak as he blew away two knights with his shoulders. The knight with a blue rose in his mouth, Dio was only able to compete with him for a while.

But Bubab was still insignificant in Earl Ashur's eyes.

"Planning to invade Reidan with such skills, you should reevaluate. Don't you know? There is a monster at Reidan."

Ttaak. Hwaruruk!Hwaruk!Hwaruk!

Earl Ashur started to generate continuous fire arrows from his fingers. He proved that C-grade magic could be as overwhelming as A-grade magic with his speed and magic power.

Pepepepeong!

"Kuaaaak!"

People burned like straw. The earth shook and a storm appeared. The unrealistic scene of two of the seven guilds representing Satisfy collapsing was recorded by Bunny Bunny in high definition.

"Amazing...! Amazing! Puhahaha!"

One of the 10 great magicians on the continent was protecting Grid! Bunny Bunny was convinced that he could break his record of maximum viewers with this broadcast. He would also be inundated with interview requests from various media.

It wouldn't be long before he returned to his days as the world's best gaming BJ.

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"Ku... Kuock...!"

The Ice Flower Guild's last survivor, Reis. The struggling man eventually collapsed. One of the seven guilds had been completely wiped out by Faker. Why did something so ridiculous happen?

The timing worked out well for Faker. This was the time when the difference between the third and second advancement classes was beginning to emerge. Out of the 30 Ice Flower Guild members, only Bondre had a third advancement class. In other words, it meant Bondre was the only one able to face Faker.

But Bondre was a magician. Faker was an assassin, so he perfectly countered Bondre. It was the difference in classes. This difference meant that the Ice Flower Guild was easily handled by Faker.

It might've been different if this moment occurred three months ago. Or after some more time. No matter how great Faker was, he wouldn't have been able to smash the Ice Flower Guild then.

[Your stamina is depleted.]

[You won't be able to take any action.]

Flop!

Faker sat on the ground like a puppet whose strings were cut. Master of Swiftiness had a fatal weakness. It was fast moving, but the stamina consumption rate was unmatched. It was a difficult challenge to overcome. Grid was trying to solve it somehow, but the result was still unknown.

Shake shake.

Faker got up with great difficulty. His stamina was fixed at zero. Despite finding it difficult to lift even one finger, he attempted to move his feet with the belief that he should protect Reidan.

'Only me.'

Based on the conversation of the Ice Flower Guild members, the fore invading Reidan was the seven guilds. Faker knew that Reidan was empty due to the Overgeared members being busy with the mine development, so there was no one else able to defend Reidan.

But.

Flop!

Faker couldn't move a single step and fell to the ground. Stamina depletion wasn't a problem that could be overcome with mental power.

"Grid..."

It would've been nice if he was the one here right now. Faker was sad. His expressionless face distorted with despair and frustration. Suddenly, the hiding UI Clan ran over to him with worried expressions.

At first, they were afraid of Faker. However, now they trusted him.

On this day.

Faker became a legend. A living god who exterminated one of the seven guilds alone. It was extremely natural that having a famous subordinate would increase Grid's reputation.

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Just before Faker attacked the Ice Flower Guild. Faker sent a shocking whisper to Lael.

-The seven guilds are heading to Reidan. The Ice Flower Guild's currently location is the thorny vine forest. In addition, I don't know the location of the other six guilds.

'What?'

There was a massive raid when Reidan was empty? It meant that the enemies accurately grasped Reidan's situation.

'I was too relaxed.'

He had to be more thorough when it came to blocking spies. But he didn't, so this was all his fault. He was incompetent as the lord's representative.

Kwaduduk!

He was angry at himself. Indeed, a lot of people were trying to restrain Reidan, but he couldn't stop this situation anymore. Lael didn't want to communicate this to Grid, who trusted him and put everything into his hands.

"Shit...! Shit!"

"Lael? What happened?"

Alzar Mountain. The Overgeared members, who were clearing the monsters around the mine, heading over to Lael. Lael was rarely so agitated, so they felt anxiety.

Lael took a deep breath and explained the situation. "The seven guilds are heading to Reidan."

"What?"

The Overgeared members cried out with shock. Among them, Vantner was especially angry.

"Those damn bastards...! Damn! What should we do? It will take at least half a day to get to Reidan!"

Lael turned his attention to Huroi.

"Huroi, how many people can board your drake?"

"Three people."

Given the speed of a drake, they would be able to reach Reidan in three hours. Lael examined the Overgeared members. It was to select two people that would arrive in Reidan first with Huroi.

"..."

It was regrettable.

The strongest members of the Overgeared Guild, Pon and Regas were off on the dungeon mission (and incommunicado), while Faker was on a private mission. Jishuka was all the way in Bairan.

Then the next most powerful...

“Vantner and Toon. Please move to Reidan first with Huroi. If the enemies haven’t invaded yet when you arrive, cooperate with Jude to increase the defense. If they are already in battle...”

Lauel stopped speaking and closed his eyes. Then he spoke difficult words.

“Discard Reidan. Focus on saving Khan, Rabbit, Piaro, and Jude.”

It was a realistic judgment. It was virtually impossible to resist the seven guilds with a small number of people. They needed to be prepared for the destruction of the internal facilities. For now, the priority was saving the people who shouldn’t be lost.

"I understand..."

To be honest, Vantner wanted to say, ‘Why should we give up on Reidan?’ He wanted to shout that he would protect Reidan on his own. But Lauel was acting on behalf of Grid. Vantner chose to remain silent and obey the command. It was because Vantner recognized Grid as his leader.

"Let’s go!"

Huroi, Vantner, and Toon boarded the drake and began their journey to Reidan. The remaining members moved with Lauel.

"Let’s go. Don’t worry about your stamina and mana. Our goal is to arrive at Reidan quickly.”

Reidan would already be ashes when they arrived.

"We must kill the invaders."

Grid would be the first user to become king. He was off limits. The enemies dared to aim at him? There were no thoughts about forgiveness.

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Reidan.

Zibal looked at the vast wheat fields with derision.

“Developing such a large city as an agricultural city, Grid has no talent for internal affairs.”

Indeed, Grid was incompetent. The only thing he could boast of was that he had a legendary class. The user who could become the first king? Not this guy.

"First of all, shall we turn these fields to ashes?"

There were many guilds that hadn’t arrived yet, but Zibal didn’t care. He instructed the magicians to burn everything with fire magic.

“Who are you?”

“...?”

Four farmers appeared.

Chapter 250

Reidan's golden wheat field.

'It's hard...'

[Goddess' Agent]

The owner of the unique class, Damian, was working hard in the fields. He wore a straw hat to protect him from the sun and harvested wheat with a sickle, looking like the very image of a skilled farmer.

Why? Why was a pope candidate working in the fields during such a busy time? In order to explain, they had to go back in time to one week ago.

One week ago.

"You can't enter Reidan unless you knock me down first."

Damian looked at the strange farmer and realized that he had stepped on nasty poo.

'It's sad.'

Piario. This farmer was crazy. It was an undeniable truth. He grabbed a random stranger passing by and applied for a duel. Now the farmer was acting like a gangster after being rejected? This aggressive and stubborn temperament was far beyond the norm. He was also strong. It was difficult to avoid a strong person who was crazy.

'I was wrong.'

Damian sighed with regret. He came to this distant place to meet Grid. But before he could even meet Grid, he felt like reality was harsh because he was grabbed by someone crazy.

'Sigh... I can't avoid this fight.'

Damian had to meet Grid. It was to ask Grid to seal Lifael's Spear. He needed to knock down this crazy farmer who was blocking the road. He decided and triggered Light's Blessing.

Chaaeng!

A golden pillar dropped from the sky. Damian's attack, defense and accuracy instantly rose by 80%. Light's Blessing. The disadvantage was that the cooldown was long, but the effect was excellent. No, this was the strongest buff skill that went beyond excellence.

Piario admired it. "This is truly amazing divine power!"

Damian glared at him. "I will listen to your request. Be careful not to die."

"A good fighting spirit."

No more dialogue was necessary. The two men immediately collided. Damian was a stable one-handed sword fighting machine. Piario dropped his hand plow and hoe and started using his sword. The confrontation between the two seemed fierce at first glance.

The result?

Damian was defeated in 10 minutes.



"Your defense is stronger than the emperor's royal guards and your healing power is almost equal to a priest. You are the first to stand up against me for so long. This taste... No, it will be fun to train my swordsmanship."

Piaro's praise followed. But Damian couldn't hear his voice.

'This can't be.'

Thanks to Grid, Damian had been the Goddess' Agent until now. How many times had he won in battle? He couldn't count the number of monsters that he had one-sidedly slaughtered. The infamous boss monsters? He could survive their attacks for several hours.

Damian was the peak of the paladins. He had such pride. Yet he was defeated by a farmer. And in only 10 minutes!

"This is ridiculous!"

Damian was shocked. He couldn't understand it. Surprisingly, another farmer approached him after the first battle was won. It was Kraugel, who hid his identity.

"Let's also fight."

"...Shit! Okay! Fight! Let's fight! Damn! These farmers don't get tired!"

Damian was extremely agitated. Sadly, he was forced to accept the confrontation with Kraugel. The result? This time, he was also defeated. Fortunately(?), he persisted for 20 minutes this time. However, this wasn't comforting either.

"Unbelievable!"

It was his second consecutive loss to a farmer. Damian was frustrated. He had no doubt that he had become a protagonist, but he was merely an extra. Piaro made a suggestion to him. "In fact... Duke Grid is currently away from here. He won't be back for at least three weeks, so why don't we do this task together?"

Together?

'What?'

Damian couldn't understand, so Piaro pointed to the wheat field.

"Work in the morning, spar in the afternoon."

"...?"

Why? Indeed, this farmer was crazy. Damian naturally was going to refuse. At that moment, the quest information window popped up. It wasn't a normal quest. It was the rumored 'hidden' quest.

[Fun and Enjoyable Training!]

★ Hidden Quest ★

Live with the farmer Piaro in Reidan. If you join him, you can grow significantly.

Quest Clear Conditions: Live together with Piaro for three weeks. You must perfectly follow Piaro's schedule.

Quest Clear Rewards: Strength +30. Stamina +60. Advanced Sword Mastery will rise by two levels. The skill 'Farming' will be obtained.

"Heok."

In the case of advanced Sword Mastery, a minimum of three months training was required to raise one level. This was under the assumption that they hunted without rest. Yet he could gain two levels of sword mastery in only three weeks? His stats would even increase by 90 points. This was the same as gaining nine levels.

'There is the farming skill... No, isn't the farming skill useless?'

Anyway, the quest was too attractive to refuse. The quest name sounded unlucky, but it wasn't bad. This crazy farmer wasn't just blowing smoke. In the end, Damian accepted Piaro's offer.

It had been a week since then. Damian became stronger. He hadn't completed the quest yet, so his skill level and stats hadn't risen. However, he sparred against the two farmers (Piaro and the still nameless person), and his control skills made a breakthrough.

Now he could hold out for 15 minutes against Piaro.

'I should be happy, but...'

Damian was confused because he still didn't know Piaro's true identity. He was also worried about forgetting himself. But Damian had to meet Grid. There was no need to fret while waiting for Grid to come back. Damian cleared his mind and worked hard. He carried 10 stacks of harvested wheat on both shoulders.

"Huh?"

Far beyond the wheat fields. A group of people seemed to be approaching. Damian cocked his head.

"Who?"

There had been no visitors to Reidan for the past week. Reidan was a completely isolated city. So why was there suddenly a group of hundreds? Damian questioned this.

"Very welcome guests came."

Piaro laughed. Damian was uneasy because of his enthusiasm.

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The Libra Oasis.

It was the gathering place of the seven guilds.

"They don't have the concept of time."

The promised time to meet had passed. Originally, the six guilds apart from the Giant Guild, who didn't participate in this, were supposed to have gathered here 10 minutes ago. But the Ice Flower Guild, Yak Guild and Zeraph Guild hadn't arrived yet.

The master of the Golden Guild, Seuron, complained. "Hey Zibal. How much more time should I waste? Do you think the time of our guild is so trivial?"

The Golden Guild.

It was the next largest guild after the Snake Guild and Giant Guild. Their self-esteem had recently risen into the sky. The guild master Seuron had acquired a unique hidden class. He was 70th on the unified rankings during the National Competition, and was now ranked 23rd.

The possibilities for further development in the future were endless. It was evaluated that the fighting ability of his class, 'Soul Predator' was much higher than Pagma's Descendant.

"We will wait 10 more minutes. We shouldn't act on our own."

The guild master of the Hades Guild, Hao, also reached the limits of his patience. Hao was 16th on the unified rankings. He was a top player who Yura had pointed out as one of the people she couldn't beat. Zibal didn't want to have a dispute with them.

'Anyway, Reidan is vacant.'

In fact, the Snake Guild alone was sufficient to decimate Reidan. But Zibal requested the aid of the seven guilds in order to promote their friendship. In particular, the Giant Guild, the Golden Guild and the Hades Guild. He could rest assured if he was in an alliance with them. For now.

"Okay, we'll go trample and plunder Reidan."

The Snake Guild had 275 people. The Golden Guild had 211 people. The Hades Guild had 70 people.

They stepped towards Reidan without hesitation. A plan to take care of Reidan's defense troops? There was no need. An army of NPCs wasn't a match against them.

"Developing such a large city as an agricultural city, Grid has no talent for internal affairs."

Zibal looked at the vast wheat fields and ridiculed. He turned his gaze towards the strongest magician in the guild.

"First of all, shall we turn these fields to ashes?"

"Leave it to me."

The magician, Big Boy was about to summon his flames, when...

"Who are you?"

"...?"

Four farmers appeared. The farmers held hand plows, scythes, hoes, etc, in their hands. One of the farmers in a straw hat spoke as he stepped forward.

“You’re filled with killing intent. Are you an enemy of Reidan?”

“Puhahahat!” Zibal started laughing. A farmer dared to question the march of this great army so confidently. “Are you like your master? Even the farmers in this area are dumb.”

Zibal laughed for a while before a cool expression appeared.

“Kill.”

Zibal ordered. It was as easy as catching a fly. To him, the farmers were nothing but flies. Big Boy launched magic towards the farmer.

[Flame Tsunami]

In order to burn the wheat fields at once, he cast a large scale A-grade magic towards the four farmers. The tsunami of flames caused the whole area to become hot, and the four farmers would turn to ash...

“Eh? Ehhhh?”

Big Boy was shocked. It wasn’t just him. Everyone here was shocked. When the farmer swung his hoe, the fierce flames disappeared like they were a lie.

“What’s this?”

The members of the three guilds couldn’t believe what they saw. Piaro threw off his straw hat and laughed brightly. “Welcome to Reidan.”

“Get ready for battle! Heok?”

Zibal realized that something was strange and quickly ordered the guild members. But it was too late. Piaro had already approached.

“Fated to Perish.”

Kwarurung!

Thunder was heard as the hand plow moved.

Puk!

The sharp end of the hand plow was stuck in Zibal’s forehead.

[You have suffered fatal damage!]

[You have died.]

"???"

The 2nd ranked user died with a single blow. The more than 550 guild members couldn’t recognize the situation properly. On the other hand, Kraugel and Damian were astonished.

“A instantaneous death skill...!”

It was a scam. Piaro was more powerful than they thought.

'Who the hell is he?'

As Kraugel and Damian felt deep doubts, the members of the three guilds were in great confusion.

"W-Who are you?"

It was a strange sight to see hundreds of guild members step away from one farmer. Piaro introduced himself.

"I am a farmer of Reidan."

It wasn't a lie. Now he really was just a farmer. In fact, he received a monthly salary of 73 silver from Administrator Rabbit. It was fun to save the money. For reference, Rabbit received 5,300 gold every month.